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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Japan-N. Korea relations: Japan remains cautious about imposing economic sanctions on impoverished North Korea for its kidnapping of Japanese nationals decades ago and might ask the United Nations to help resolve the dispute, a senior ruling party official said Sunday.

North Korea says that eight of the 13 Japanese citizens it has admitted to kidnapping in the 1970s and '80s are dead, Japan, which says Pyongyang hasn't offered concrete evidence of their deaths, has demanded an investigation.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is under pressure from the Japanese public to consider sanctions against the communist regime, but Tokyo worries that it could prevent a breakthrough in six-nation talks.

Pincochet investigation: An investigative judge has found that former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet accumulated a fortune of \$15.9 million in foreign bank accounts and used Chilean army funds for personal benefit, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Santiago daily El Mercurio said the information comes from a report prepared by judge Sergio Munoz, who has been investigating Pinochet for five months after a U.S. Senate committee disclosed he kept secret accounts for up to \$8 million at Riggs Bank in Washington.

Iran nuclear crisis: Iran will allow U.N. nuclear experts to take environmental samples at a military site the United States links to an alleged nuclear weapons program, but won't allow them to inspect military equipment, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, had said last week Iran had agreed to grant access to the site at Parchin, just southeast of Tehran, and that his inspectors could arrive soon.

Jewish Congress meets: Some 500 delegates were to attend the World Jewish Congress' first international meeting in four years on Monday to discuss anti-Semitism in Europe and relations with the Muslim world.

The two-day session of the WJC, will confront what the group calls the "disturbing increase" in anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere.

Bronfman and other representatives are to meet with European Union officials, in-



Civil rights pioneer: A congressional honor guard carries the flag-draped casket of former Rep. Shirley Chisholm after a memorial service at the First A.M.E. Church of Palm Coast, Fla. She was remembered on Saturday not only for being the first black woman to run for president but for never backing down from her convictions. She was an outspoken champion of women, minorities and the poor during seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Hundreds of mourners, including more than a half dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which Chisholm helped establish, came to the service to honor her.

cluding European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso after the session to discuss how the 25-nation bloc can improve ways to combat racism and anti-Semitism.

War on terrorism

Collecting Afghan weapons: Officials began removing tanks and rocket-launchers from the mountain stronghold of a famed anti-Taliban commander on Sunday, the final leg of a drive to collect all the heavy weapons in Afghanistan and help draw a line under its violent past.

Under the watch of U.N. monitors, officials began rounding up 110 tanks, rocket-launchers, missiles and artillery pieces from the Panjshir Valley.

Officials said it would take two weeks to bring the weapons out of the valley, completing a nationwide program to round up heavy armaments and make a renewed outbreak of large-scale hostilities impossible.

Afghan judge arrested: A judge arrested in connection with two bombings that killed about 12 people, including four Americans, in the Afghan capital last year has admitted that the suspected organizers of the attacks lodged at his house, a senior official said

Sunday.

Naqibullah, a 60-year-old preliminary court judge, was detained about two weeks ago after two captured suspects said they had stayed in his Kabul residence while they orchestrated an Aug. 29 car bombing at a U.S. security company as well as a suicide attack in the city.

Officials have identified the alleged ring-leader as a Tajik national named Mohammad Haidar and say he took his orders from an Iraqi al-Qaida member. They accuse Haidar and an Afghan accomplice of organizing the attacks.

States

Spitzer for N.Y. governor: Looking to impress the news media and possibly scare off potential opponents for the 2006 governor's race, state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is pleading for a quick infusion of political donations in advance of required financial filings due soon.

Democrat Spitzer, who gained international attention with investigations of Wall Street brokers, mutual fund executives and the insurance industry, announced in early December that he would run for governor.

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Yokosuka chaplain's aide gets Navy-wide honor

Houston native named Religious Program Specialist of the year

BY JIM O'DONNELL
Stars and Stripes

A Destroyer Squadron 15 sailor at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, recently was recognized by the Navy Chaplain's Corps as the Religious Program Specialist, or RP, of the year.

Petty Officer 1st Class Rita Hurts from Houston was selected for the honor on Dec. 27 and will receive her award, along with a Navy Achievement Medal, at a Navy Chaplain Corps symposium in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Tuesday.

Hurts, 39, the only religious program specialist for the seven ships assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15, said she was grateful for the award.

"I am truly honored," she said. "This is the second time I've been nominated. Last year, I made Pacific Fleet RP of the year, and this year I made Pacific RP ... [and] Navy RP of the year."

Hurts' path to the award has been anything but typical. Joining the Navy in 1997 at 32, Hurts was a little bit older than the typical recruit. She had quit school, she said, when she ran out of money and then worked at a bakery for seven years before getting "burned out" and looking for something different to do.

At the mail one day, she bumped into a cousin who was a master chief, and he talked her into looking at enlisting in the Navy. Her first Navy assignment was as an undersigned airman on the USS Theodore Roosevelt flight deck. During that stint, she said, she would visit the religious program office a lot to research jobs other than aviation.

"I used to go down to the religious program office, where they would have the computers, telephones and everything. It was basically a crew lounge and I would see the RPs there all of the time," she said. "I would ask the RPs a lot of questions because they were really there to help."

But she credits the influence of a chief petty officer for leading her to become an RP herself.



PATRICK DILL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 1st Class Rita Hurts, shown here in Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan's Chapel of Hope, recently was named Religious Program Specialist of the Year for 2004. Hurts, who says her job is to be the "eyes and ears" for the chaplain, was grateful for the award.

"His name was Chief Terry. He finally gave me an opportunity, said 'I'm going to help this young lady' and talked to the RPs and they took it from there," Hurts said. "That chief is now a Master Chief Terry and ... the senior RP for the chief of chaplains. Who would have ever guessed that? And the bad part is," Hurts said, laughing, "I don't even think this guy remembers me."

She said the chief arranged for her to work temporarily in the RP office, and when the ship returned to port from deployment she applied and was selected to become a full-time RP.

She attended RP training school in Meridian, Miss., and then was assigned to Yokosuka Naval Base's Chapel of Hope. Next she took a one-year assignment to Commander Naval Forces Korea in Chinhae, South Korea, and she arrived at the destroyer squadron in 2002.

Hurts says her job is to be the "eyes and ears" for the chaplain. "You represent the chaplain," said Hurts. "The first person they see when they go through the door is a

religious program specialist, and you need to be squared away, be approachable, be alert and really be concerned and try to handle the sailor or the spouse's problem at the lowest level possible."

Lt. Robert Jones, staff chaplain for Destroyer Squadron 15, applauded Hurts' professionalism and work ethic.

"There are some outstanding sailors who are RPs throughout the Navy and serving with the Marine Corps. For her to be chosen among her peers is a very, very serious statement on the kind of professional she is, because the competition was very stiff," he said.

In March, Hurts transfers to the Training Support Center in Great Lakes, Ill., much to her boss' regret. "That is going to be a sad day for us," Jones said. "We've been a team, we've been under way on ships and done many port visits and [community relations] projects together. ..."

"We have a really great working relationship and that doesn't always happen. When she leaves there will be some sadness — I

call it my 'tight face,' — maybe even a few tears." Hurts, who reenlisted for another four years on Thursday, says she never expected to be in the Navy this long.

"I am enjoying being in the Navy," she said. "I've accelerated very quickly and I've been blessed to have made it this far. I can remember coming in and saying 'this is not for me, I am on my way out,' and here I am on my second enlistment now. It has been truly rewarding."

She said she is looking forward to her new command because it will allow her another opportunity to be a part of something she feels is most important for sailors in today's Navy: mentorship.

"It is so important that we really take the time to mentor to junior personnel because they are the future of the Navy. Had it not been for Chief, now Master Chief — Terry giving me the opportunity, not knowing me from anyone else on the ship and giving me the chance," she probably wouldn't be here today, she said.

E-mail Jim O'Donnell at: odonnell@patriotpress.com

HSV brings space, speed to humanitarian mission



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Marine Lance Cpl. Jeff W. Erickson, a radar repairman with Marine Air Control Group 18, guides a seven-ton truck off the leased High Speed Vessel Sunday at Chukamset Port, Thailand. The HSV deployed from Okinawa to help ferry supplies throughout Thailand and Indonesia.

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

CHUKSAMET PORT, Thailand — The Westpac Express arrived here Sunday to lend its unique capabilities to humanitarian relief efforts in South Asia.

The high-speed catamaran, which the Military Sealift Command leases, unloaded about 35 vehicles — seven-ton trucks, Hummers and forklifts — communications gear and shipping containers of military supplies. The vehicles and equipment belong to the Marine Corps' 7th Communications Battalion and the III Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters group.

The ship left Okinawa Jan. 4, making it here in five days, said Chief Warrant Officer Perry L. Smith, embarkation officer. That's among the HSV's unique features, Smith said. With a possible top speed of approximately 40

knots, it can travel much faster than normal Navy ships.

"We made it here a couple of days faster than a normal ship, and we can carry more gear," he said. The HSV can carry 633 tons and up to 970 passengers, he added.

The catamaran also can enter shallower waters than conventional surface ships. "If we have 15 feet of water, we can get into port," said Ken Kujala, the HSV's captain. "We can get into a lot of places bigger ships can't."

The HSV also can dock and off-load where other ships can't. Smith said the ship needs just a wharf, not an improved pier.

Marine Lt. Col. John Curatola, logistics officer for Combined Support Force 536, said the HSV would stay in the area as long as needed. A second similar vessel, the Swift, is to head to the region soon from the States and should arrive by the end of January, he said.

The plan now is to use the vessel to ferry supplies throughout Thailand and Sumatra, Curatola said. Sri Lanka, another area suffering heavy tsunami damage, is too distant to make HSV use efficient, he said; that country will continue to be an airlift priority.

Three Maritime Prepositioning Ships now are in the Gulf of Thailand. Curatola said if needed, those ships' cargoes could be transferred to the HSV, which then could deliver the supplies.

Kujala said this is the first time the vessel will take part in relief operations; its normal mission is to support training. The HSV's all-civilian crew hasn't learned what it's like to provide during the relief effort, Kujala said, but crew members are ready.

"We're standing by to stand by," he said. "We're here to do what we need to do."

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@patriotpress.com

From the football field to the battlefield

Researchers working on improved body armor to save lives and limbs

BY BRENT KALLESTAD
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Spc. Robert Loria's life was changed when a roadside bomb blasted his Humvee in Iraq. With no armor on the vehicle or his body, the Middletown, N.Y., soldier lost part of his left arm and suffered other injuries.

"I can't be too angry," he said in a recent telephone interview from his home. "Things happen for a reason. It was God's intent. It just so happened it was my time."

Loria has taken a philosophical approach to his injuries, but critics of the U.S. military say inadequate armor is costing many troops their lives and limbs in an increasing Iraqi insurgency.

Injuries like those he suffered are prompting the military to come up with answers to give the troops more protection. But the helmets and bulletproof vests that soldiers now wear don't protect their arms and legs. And many, who suffer blasts such as the roadside bomb that injured Loria in February, are losing limbs or are bleeding to death because their extremities are exposed.

Researchers at Florida State University and Jacksonville armored-equipment manufacturer Armor Holdings think they have a solution. They are developing lightweight armor for soldiers' arms and legs that could reduce fatalities and loss of limbs.

"Most of the folks who die over there, die from flying debris, they bleed to death," said lead researcher James Thagard, an assistant professor at FSU's engineering school. "We hope to help save lives and help save limbs. It's not feasible to believe we can protect everybody."

Thagard's team is experimenting with polymers toughened with carbon nanotubes (a tube structure made from carbon atoms) to stretch and fabrics used to make bulletproof armor. The developers found multiple layers of fabric and plastic materials together to create the armor.

The school's researchers have begun making prototype pieces similar to pads worn by football and hockey players, which will be given to Armor Holdings to manufacture on a broad scale for field-testing. Armor Holdings already manufactures vests and other plates that soldiers wear to protect their torso.



James Thagard holds a new body armor material he developed in his lab at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla.

The developers will first focus on armor protection for the upper arm and shoulder areas, where bleeding wounds can be fatal, then for the forearms and legs. The armor likely will be field tested at military training facilities in the coming weeks to determine if it can be comfortably worn and isn't too bulky for soldiers.

Thanks in part to bulletproof vests, the survival rate for soldiers injured in Iraq is the highest of any war in U.S. history.

But many of the injured troops have had their arms and legs blown off. And most deaths result from excessive bleeding. Thagard believes the new armor will help reduce those injuries and deaths.

"The reality is you can't protect everybody from everything," Thagard said. "If we can reduce 15 percent or (even) 10 percent of the casualties, or protect these soldiers from losing their arms or losing their legs, that's huge."

Since the start of the war in Iraq, more than 10,000 troops have been wounded and another 1,335 have been killed. Nearly 90

percent of the Americans wounded in Iraq survive, compared to 78 percent in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and 73 percent in Vietnam.

In Iraq, many injuries and deaths result from car bombs or improvised explosive devices, known as IEDs. There was far too little advanced body armor and there were too few armored vehicles to deal with what the Pentagon has acknowledged is a far stronger and longer insurgency than expected. The issue of inadequate protection for troops was highlighted recently when a U.S. soldier complained to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in Kuwait that troops have to scrounge landfills for scrap metal and discarded bullet-resistant glass to provide armor for their vehicles.

"This case has come up many times," Loria said. "I've seen where people didn't want to do missions because they didn't have proper equipment."

Armor Holdings, one of several companies that manufacturers protective equipment for the military, has provided an initial grant of \$100,000 to FSU to cover two

months of research. The partnership is the latest area of high-tech, composite-materials research at the Florida Advanced Center for Composite Technologies.

Besides the new body armor, Thagard and other researchers have developed lightweight, custom leg supports for various uses. One brace, for example, helps Navy Seabee Anthony Muller of Jacksonville to walk after he sustained a severe leg wound in Iraq.

Ballistics tests show the combination of materials for the body armor being developed at Florida State exceed the new requirements for bulletproof vests and still fit comfortably over the body areas they're designed to protect.

The improved protection was something Loria could have used. He lost part of his left arm three inches above the wrist when hot metal fragments from the explosion ripped into the Humvee he was driving.

"I couldn't tell my commanding officers I'm not going to do this mission because I don't have the proper equipment," Loria said. "It really doesn't matter. You still have to do it."

At least 5 Iraqis killed by U.S. troops

BY BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — American troops opened fire after their convoy was struck by a roadside bomb at a checkpoint south of Baghdad, killing at least two policemen and three civilians, police said Sunday, a day after the U.S. military acknowledged five people were killed when it bombed the wrong house during a search operation in northern Iraq.

In an apparent accident, seven Ukrainians and one Kazakh serving with the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq were killed Sunday in an explosion while leading bombs that could be used by warplanes, officials said. Lt. Col. Artur Domanski, a Polish military spokesman in Iraq, said the explosion occurred

at about noon at an ammunition dump about 6 miles south of Suwayra. He said 11 soldiers were wounded — four Kazakhs and seven Ukrainians.

The owner of the house that was struck south of Mosul, Ali Yousef, said 14 people were killed when the 500-pound GPS-guided bomb hit at about 2 a.m. Saturday in the town of Aitha, 30 miles south of Mosul. An AP photographer at the scene said seven children and seven adults died. The discrepancy between the death counts could not be reconciled.

The U.S. military later released a statement saying it regretted the loss of "possibly innocent lives" in the strike, which occurred as U.S. ground troops searched for an "anti-Iraqi force cell leader." American troops re-

cently sent more troops to Mosul, which has seen heavy clashes in recent weeks between insurgents and American forces.

The attacks come at an extremely delicate time, with Iraq poised by violence just three weeks before elections for a national assembly. The United States has insisted that the vote go ahead on Jan. 30.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was asked on ABC's "This Week" how he would define success in Iraq's election, and acknowledged concern that what will happen after the vote. "Success is putting in place a government that is really elected and represents all of the people of Iraq," and creating an Iraqi security force that is able to protect the country and protect the people of Iraq," he said in the interview.





Yokota International Christian Assembly
Yokota Christian Center
Located Just So. Of Supply Gate on RT. 16
1437 Kumagawa, Fussa-shi, Tokyo, 197-0003 Japan

SUNDAY		WEDNESDAY	
Japanese Language Discipleship Class	9:00am	Family Night	7:00 p.m.
Prayer & Sanctuary	10:30am	Adult Bible Study	
Worship Service	10:45am	Youth, Young Adults, and Missionaries	
Children's Church (English, Japanese)	10:45am		
Worship Service		THURSDAY	
Children's Sunday School		Power Hour	8:00pm-9:00
Youth Aikido Service			
Home Fellowship (Japanese) 1st & 3rd Sunday	1:00pm 6:00pm	FRIDAY	
		"Come to the River"	Christians Service (3rd Friday of month)
TUESDAY		SATURDAY	
Ladies Bible Study		Hebrew/Arab/Men's Ministries	8:30 a.m.
Ladies Night Out (2nd Tues of month)		Prayer Breakfast & Training	

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Git to jails mark 3 years of operation

Camp continues construction despite questions of abuse and lack of prosecuted cases

BY PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — The U.S. prison camp for terror suspects is taking on a look of permanence as the mission marks its third year Tuesday, with plans for a new \$25 million prison facility, \$1.7 million psychiatric wing and a permanent guard force.

Most of the 550 prisoners from 42 countries no longer are considered of significant intelligence value, but many swept up in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan aren't expected to be freed anytime soon — some because of stalled legal proceedings, others because they allegedly still pose a threat to the United States or its allies.

"Where this will go four or five years down the road, I don't know," said Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, who has commanded the mission for six months.

Such uncertainties, coupled with multiplying allegations of abuse, are under attack from lawyers and human rights groups who say the camp is an affront to American values.

Only four men have been charged and most prisoners are denied access to lawyers.

Ten cases of abuse have also put the detention mission in a poor light. Documents published recently show that the FBI suggested the government failed to act on its complaints.

The military, which has ordered an independent investigation, insists most cases detailed in by the FBI are old and that many questionable interrogation techniques no longer are used.

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Alleged Taliban and al-Qaida detainees sit in a holding area at Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during its processing to the temporary detention facility in 2002. The prison camp marks three years of operation as renovations continue.

Among those held at Guantanamo are an alleged al-Qaida financier who was in Orlando, Fla., the same day as Sept. 11 hijacker Mohamed Atta; the alleged designer of a prototype shoe bomb; and a man accused of plotting to attack oil tankers in the Persian Gulf using explosive-laden fishing boats, Pentagon spokeswoman Barbara Burfeind said.

But, "the majority of the individuals that are here today ... are not of intelligence value — right now," said Steve Rodriguez,

an alleged al-Qaida financier who was in Orlando, Fla., the same day as Sept. 11 hijacker Mohamed Atta; the alleged designer of a prototype shoe bomb; and a man accused of plotting to attack oil tankers in the Persian Gulf using explosive-laden fishing boats, Pentagon spokeswoman Barbara Burfeind said.

But, "the majority of the individuals that are here today ... are not of intelligence value — right now," said Steve Rodriguez,

most of the some 550 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, he has not been charged.

During the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the 13-year-old boy saw a Kuwaiti family being beaten by Iraqis at a checkpoint. To him, the Americans were heroes, said his father.

"I still have love and respect for the United States because the Americans liberated my country, but what this administration is doing is tearing me apart," said al-Odah.

Proponents of the mission at Guantanamo point to the some 3,000 lives lost during the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Critics, however, say many of the Guantanamo prisoners have been wrongly imprisoned

a civilian in charge of interrogations.

The four prisoners who have been charged are low-level suspects, including Osama bin Laden's driver, an al-Qaida accountant, a propagandist and an Australian cowboy allegedly turned Taliban fighter.

The government's intention was to try the men in military commissions, but U.S. District Judge James Robertson blocked that process when he ruled in November that bin Laden driver Salim Ahmed Hamdan, 34, could not be tried unless a competent tribunal decided he was not entitled to protections under the Geneva Conventions for prisoners of war.

Right now, about 50 detainees are held in a maximum security prison that has room for 100 prisoners of high intelligence value.

There are plans for a similar facility with a capacity for 200 at a cost of \$25 million, Hood said. If Congress approves, the camera-equipped facility could reduce the number of guards needed, Hood said.

Also planned are a \$1.7 million psychiatric wing and a \$4 million security fence that could reduce the need for some 300 infantry troops.

About 200 prisoners have been released or transferred since the mission began, but most are still being held and some are on trial in their home lands.

In a major setback to the Bush administration's plans for detainees, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that Guantanamo prisoners can challenge their detentions in federal court. Since then, 69 detainees have filed 19 cases challenging the legality of their detention as enemy combatants. Rulings are expected soon.

Families of detainees continue to wait for release of loved ones

BY PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — When American troops liberated Kuwait from Iraqi forces in 1991, Fawzi al-Odah's father said, the smiling teenager greeted approaching U.S. tanks, took a small American flag from a soldier's hand and began cheering.

The forces he once saw as saviors, however, have become his captors at Guantanamo Bay.

Like many prisoners who were brought to this remote camp in eastern Cuba when it opened three years ago, birthdays have

passed, relatives have died, siblings have graduated and parents have waned with little communication other than censored postcards from their sons.

"Sometimes my wife calls my other son Fawzi," said his father Khalid al-Odah during a telephone interview from Kuwait. "It's an unbearable sadness most of the time."

Fawzi al-Odah, 27, was captured after going to Pakistan to teach the Quran in a poor border village near Afghanistan where he had volunteered to help a group of Afghan refugees. The U.S. government accuses him of having links to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime, though like

most of the some 550 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, he has not been charged.

During the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the 13-year-old boy saw a Kuwaiti family being beaten by Iraqis at a checkpoint. To him, the Americans were heroes, said his father.

"I still have love and respect for the United States because the Americans liberated my country, but what this administration is doing is tearing me apart," said al-Odah.

Proponents of the mission at Guantanamo point to the some 3,000 lives lost during the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Critics, however, say many of the Guantanamo prisoners have been wrongly imprisoned

because they were Muslims captured during the U.S.-led war.

Mozam Beggi, 66, father of British prisoner Asmaa Beggi, said the wait has been long and his family has been turned upside down since his son was taken to the prison camp three years ago.

"It's very hard, especially for Asmaa's wife," he said during a telephone interview from London, referring to his daughter-in-law, who has four young children.

"The United States was supposed to be a beacon of human rights, dignity, the rule of law and freedom," said al-Odah. "We don't understand what's happened."

Associated Press Writer Richard McGinnough contributed to this report from London.

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

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Small Group

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Ladies Meeting 1st Sat

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The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Internal audits conducted by the United Nations of its oil-for-food program revealed lapses in U.N. oversight that allowed contractors to overcharge by hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to copies obtained by The Associated Press.

Two of the audits examined irregularities including overcharging by two companies that were hired to monitor oil sales and the import of humanitarian goods under the program. Another detailed financial mismanagement by a U.N. agency administering humanitarian aid under the program.

An independent panel led by former Federal Reserve Chair-

man Paul Volcker — who was appointed in April by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to investigate corruption at the oil-for-food program — was set to release 400 pages of the audits on Monday.

But the panel distributed the documents to congressional investigators two days early. A congressional aide provided the audit with copies of three of the 56 audits, including one that found that the United Nations was billed over several years for 31 days of work in June, which only has 30 days.

The \$60 billion oil-for-food program was created as a humanitarian exemption to sanctions imposed on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which led to the

1991 Gulf War. Beginning in 1996, it allowed Saddam Hussein's government to sell oil and use the proceeds to buy food, medicine and other necessities.

The series of audits, which were carried out from 1996 to 2003 by the U.N. watchdog, the Office of Internal Oversight Services, have been a source of contention between the United Nations and members of Congress examining allegations of corruption in the program.

The United Nations had refused to release them while Volcker's panel conducts its investigation, although the world body passed a resolution in December making OIOS reports available to member states who request them.

At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

Fussa Gate 16 Term Gate

Exit polls: Abbas wins Palestinian election

BY M. DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Early results showed the moderate candidate Mahmoud Abbas overwhelmingly winning the Palestinian presidential election Sunday with at least 66 percent of the vote, two exit polls said.

Such a margin of victory would give the 62-year-old Abbas, popularly known as Abu Mazen, a clear mandate to renew peace talks with Israel, rein in militants and reform the corruption-riddled Palestinian Authority.

A poll conducted among 10,000 voters by the respected Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research gave Abbas 66 percent of the vote. Abbas' main challenger, Mustafa Barghouti, won 19.7 percent. The poll had an error margin of 3 percentage points.

A second survey, by An Najah University in the West Bank City of Nablus, was based on responses of more than 5,000 voters. In that poll, Abbas won 69.5 percent, compared to 24.5 percent for Barghouti.

The poll had an error margin of 5 percentage points.

Palestinians hoped Sunday's presidential election, their first in nine years, would revitalize the Middle East peace process in the wake of longtime leader Yasser Arafat's death on Nov. 11.

"This percentage means that Abu Mazen will have the legitimacy to negotiate with the Israelis, and the Palestinian people will accept that Abu Mazen will agree to it. He has a mandate from the voters," said the Palestinian policy center's director, Khalil Shekaki.

The initial results came after the Central Election Commission decided to keep polls open for an additional two hours, until 9 p.m., citing logistical problems.

Voting went relatively smoothly for the estimated 1.8 million Palestinians eligible to cast ballots.

However, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, which has



Palestinian presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, shows his ballot before casting his vote at a polling station in late Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

been funding Palestinian militants to disrupt a possible Israeli-Palestinian truce, carried out an attack on the border with Israel on Sunday. A French U.N. observer, an Israeli army officer and a Hezbollah fighter were killed in the incident.

In the West Bank, five gunmen burst into an election office, firing into the air and complaining that the names of their relatives had been left off registration lists. In Jerusalem, there was some confusion over voter lists that was eventually resolved, with the help of international observers.

Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said the Palestinian elections can be a model for the Arab world, noting that seven candidates competed. "This is a message to President Bush, to the rest of the world, that the problem we have here is not the kind of system we have, it's not reform, it's the Israeli occupation," Erekat said.

Bush has said a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks must be accompanied by sweeping Palestinian government reform. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking on CNN, praised the vote as a "moment of opportunity for both sides."

Visiting U.S. Sen. John Kerry, who challenged Bush in the 2004 U.S. election, met with candidates in the West Bank. "We're here because we have very, very high hopes for an election that can help move the peace process forward," he said.

The Palestinian election came a day before Israel's parliament was to approve a new, more moderate coalition, seen as a boost for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in the summer.

In the new alliance, Sharon will govern side-by-side with elder statesman Shimon Peres, leader of the moderate Labor Party, and an architect of interim peace deals with the Palestinians. Hardliners had quit the coalition last year, in protest against the planned withdrawal.

Sharon plans to meet with Abbas after the election, said Sharon adviser Raanan Gissin. "I think this vote shows a change in the Palestinian street because Abu Mazen's positions are known, his opposition to the armed uprising and the damage it has done to the Palestinian cause," Gissin said.

New leader could open door to larger U.S. role

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The election of a new Palestinian leader on Sunday could prompt a surge of U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East.

And yet, President Bush has ruled out "shortcuts" to an accord with Israel.

Bush and his administration have signaled they are looking for evidence of democracy taking root and for a concerted effort to dismantle terror groups.

But having promised to help set up a Palestinian state, Bush said before Christmas "we've got a good chance to get it done" now that there will be a successor to Yasser Arafat.

The Palestinian front-runner, Mahmoud Abbas, is considered a reformer by the Bush administration, although officials here were unsettled by his denunciation of Israel while campaigning as the "Zionist enemy."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was instrumental as President Carter's national security adviser in helping drive Israel and Egypt into their 1979 peace treaty, urged Bush on Friday to set out specific proposals to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Simply declaring support for Palestinian statehood and fostering a "roadmap to a vague destination" is inadequate, Brzezinski said in an interview.

In its place, he said, Bush should make specific recommendations, including an end to all Jewish settlements except a cluster near Jerusalem, deployment of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees now in Lebanon on those settlements, sharing of Jerusalem and demilitarization of the Palestinian state.

"Fanatics on both sides will reject such a package initially," Brzezinski said. "But I am con-

vinced such a package would gradually win the majority of Arab and Israeli support."

Sandy Berger, who was President Clinton's national security adviser, also urged Bush to upgrade American diplomatic efforts in the area.

"Assuming Abu Mazen wins, it is the last chance we will have in a long time to have a moderate Palestinian government," Berger said. Abbas is also known as Abu Mazen.

He has to crack down on violence on his side but "we cannot demand perfection, we have to expect 100 percent effort," Berger said in an interview.

However, a far different view was taken by James Phillips, Middle East specialist at the Heritage Foundation.

"The conventional wisdom is we should rush to like Clinton did and push them to a quick summit and try to attain a comprehensive settlement," Phillips said. "I don't agree with that."

"I think the U.S. should take an incremental, cautious approach, rebuilding mutual trust between Israel and Palestinians that Yasser Arafat shattered," he said.

The new Palestinian leader will need time to consolidate his power and to deliver on improved living standards, Phillips said.

Shibley Telhami, a University of Maryland professor who also is with the Brookings Institution, said, "The most important priority is to signal the U.S. is going to play a high-level role." That, he said, could mean appointing a special Middle East envoy, or involving Condoleezza Rice as secretary of state.

"They are going to have to immediately, I think, reach out to the new leaders, certainly by inviting the newly elected leader to Washington and announcing some measures to support him," Telhami said.

Ethnic tensions rise

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Indonesia warned aid workers Sunday that separatist rebels have taken shelter in camps for survivors, while a burst of violence hit Sri Lanka, signaling a potential resurgence of long-smoldering rebellions in both tsunami-hit countries that could hamper help for victims of the 2-week-old disaster.

Compounding the misery, tropical downpours complicated relief efforts already slowed by impassable roads and destroyed bridges.

Tens of thousands of survivors living in little more than tents and the drizzling rain underscored the need to quickly build permanent shelters.

"We don't believe that aid workers are targets," said Joel Boutroun, head of the U.N. relief effort in Indonesia's troubled Aceh province.

— The Associated Press

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U.S.: Get tough on copyright law

American entertainment focus of China meetings

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government wants China to crack down on rampant piracy of American movies, music and computer programs and will not be satisfied until copyright violators get stiff prison sentences, Commerce Secretary Donald Evans said.

Evans, who on Monday was leaving on his fourth and final trip to China as a member of President Bush's Cabinet, said in an interview that he wanted to learn firsthand what China was doing to fulfill promises to better enforce its intellectual property laws.

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi led a 70-person delegation to Washington last April for economic talks that resulted in a number of pledges by the Chinese on

trade, including protections for U.S. copyrights.

The Motion Picture Association of America estimates that its members lost up to \$3.5 billion last year from movie pirates. China is considered the second worst offender behind Russia.

Evans said even though the Chinese government had pledged to take specific steps to combat piracy, the United States was concerned about the lack of significant criminal prosecutions.

He said the administration wants to see "jail time and tough criminal actions against those responsible for the thefts. ... We haven't seen enough evidence that this is happening yet."

Evans said he would emphasize this point during meetings with Chinese leaders and in a speech Thursday at an intellectual property conference in Beijing.

During Bush's second term, the United States will keep the pressure on China to abide by the market-opening commitments it made upon joining the World Trade Organization, Evans said.

That effort, he said, will continue under Carlos Gutierrez, the president's nominee for commerce secretary. The head of cereal giant Kellogg is awaiting Senate approval to take over for Evans.

Evans, a close friend of Bush, said in November he was leaving the Cabinet to return to Texas.

Critics of the administration's trade policies contend that Bush has not done enough to protect American workers from unfair trade practices in other nations. Those practices have contributed greatly to the loss of 2.7 million U.S. manufacturing jobs over the past four years, these critics say.

Evans said currency issues would not come up directly in his conversations with Chinese leaders because Treasury Secretary John Snow is handling that policy matter for the administration.

But Evans said he would raise with the Chinese the additional steps needed, such as selling off state-owned enterprises, so China can be classified by the United States as a market economy.



Evans

Security tight at Manila festival

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Hundreds of thousands of barefoot devotees on Sunday inched their way through Manila for an annual procession honoring a centuries-old black statue of Jesus Christ after police said they had failed an attempt by Islamic militants to bomb the festival.

More than 2,000 police — double last year's number — 14 ambulances, six fire trucks, bomb-sniffing dogs and hundreds of civilian volunteers were deployed along the route of the tumultuous procession in Manila's Quiapo district honoring the Black Nazarene, a wooden life-size statue brought from Mexico by Spaniards in 1606.

The heightened security came after police on Saturday filed charges of illegal possession of explosives and firearms against five men who allegedly planned to bomb the procession.

The five men were among 17 people taken into custody Thursday in a raid on an Islamic center where homemade bombs and an array of weapons were found, officials said.

The 12 others, including three women, were released without charges.

Puerto Rico cigar maker hand rolls a 62-foot stogie

BY FRANK GRIFFITHS
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A cigar maker in Puerto Rico has hand-rolled a 62-foot-long stogie, which would be the world's largest if confirmed by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Patricio Pena, 43, took about four days to manufacture the cigar in a plaza outside a farmer's market in the Santurce district of San Juan, finishing the project late Saturday.

"A friend of mine came up to me recently, and said, 'Why don't you try and make the world's largest cigar?'" Pena said standing over the cigar, which spanned the length of about a dozen tables.

Pena is attempting to displace Cuba — the king of cigar-making — as the home of the world's largest cigar. The current Guinness record-holder Jose Castelar Cairo of Havana, who made a 45-foot-long cigar in August 2003.

Pena, originally from Santiago, Dominican Republic, first started rolling cigars at the age of 7, and has continued the practice in Puerto Rico, where he has lived for the past three decades. He has a stand outside the market where he rolls regular-sized cigars.

It took 20 pounds of tobacco from Puerto Rico and



Cuban percussionist Carlos "Patato" Valdes pretends to take a puff Saturday from a 62-foot-long cigar in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Patricio Pena took four days to.

Pennsylvania and 100 leaves to roll the huge cigar, Pena said. The materials cost about \$2,000 but was sponsored by San Juan's city government, Baccardi rum company and Telemundo TV station, he said.

Dozens of curious onlookers including legendary Cuban percussionist Carlos "Patato" Valdes were on hand to watch the final stage of the feat on Saturday. Pena had nine assistants turn the cigar as he wrapped it with the leaves over an hour.

Pena said he does not plan to smoke the cigar or cut it into smaller stogies. Instead, he plans to hang the cigar in the market so tourists can come and see it.

Italy's smokers take last puffs before new law goes into effect

BY FRANCIS D'EMILIO
The Associated Press

ROME — Smokers in Italy took their last puffs in smoky bars and trattorias Sunday, hours before the country's toughest law barring smoking in offices, eateries, pubs and other public places.

The outdoors, private homes, and restaurants and bars with ventilated smoking rooms are virtually the only places spared from the law, which was championed by Italy's Health Minister Girolamo Sirchia, a physician.

Enforcement of the law was to begin at 12:01 a.m. Monday, when many bars and clubs will still be serving customers.

In a restaurant near Viterbo, north of Rome, a dozen cigar aficionados reserved a table for a kind of farewell dinner, promising to puff away on Tuscan and Cuban cigars

between courses before the clock struck midnight, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

"In the end we'll get used to not smoking in restaurants or bars, just like we've already had to do, for example, in trains and planes," said Francesca Cola, a 38-year-old clothing store owner, smoking a cigarette as she sat outside a cafe on Rome's central Piazza Venezia.

Her annoyance, however, was plain. "I think this is excessive zeal against smokers, it's a witch

hunt," she said, and pledged to throw more dinner parties and eat out less frequently.

The law, described as one of the toughest in Europe, bans smoking on public transport and in hospitals, cinemas and schools. In a country where restaurant diners rarely ask if drinking smoke is bothersome to others and doctors and visitors will puff away in hospital corridors, about 26 percent of people smoke, according to Health Ministry figures.

Smokers now face fines from getting caught lighting up where they are forbidden.

Owners of premises that close an eye to smoking face stiffer fines, as high as \$2,904.

About 10 percent of Italian restaurants have separate smoking areas, according to restaurant lobbyists.

Bars and restaurants have lobbied for more time to prepare non-smoking zones, but have been denied. The law, approved in 2003, was to have gone into effect in December, but an extension was granted through the holiday period.

Some Italian newspapers greeted the ban with humor. An editorial cartoon on the front page of Turin daily La Stampa on Sunday showed a prisoner about to be executed asking, "Can I smoke a last cigarette?" A soldier replied, "No. It could be bad for your health."

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USS Kitty Hawk group may be heading home

U.S., Iraqis gather plan government

'In our hands'

Sailor dies of injuries from sub accident

By GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

A sailor aboard the Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarine USS San Francisco died Sunday from injuries sustained when the sub ran aground Friday about 350 miles south of Guam.

The name of the sailor is being withheld pending a mandatory 24-hour waiting period, which began when next of kin were no-

tified, according to Pacific Fleet spokesman Jon Yoshishige.

Navy medical personnel came aboard the submarine at the first opportunity Sunday morning, Yoshishige said, "but the one sailor's injuries were extremely serious."

"The medical personnel, including a doctor, remain aboard and are treating 23 other crew members for a range of injuries including broken bones, lacerations, bruises and a back injury."

The cause of the accident is under investigation, Yoshishige said, adding that "further information will be released when available."

There were no reports of damage to the San Francisco's reactor plant, which was operating normally, officials said.

The 360-foot submarine, with its crew of 137 sailors, remains surfaced as it continues toward its permanent base in Guam. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Galveston Is-

land and USNS Stockham are escorting the San Francisco.

The submarine is expected to arrive in port Monday afternoon, the Pacific Fleet spokesman said, adding that the USNS Riska and military aircraft also are continuing to assist as required.

"Our sincerest condolences and prayers go out to the family and friends of the sailor," Yoshishige said.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@stripes.com

Storms continue to pound Calif., trap motorists

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — More heavy rain spread across parts of California on Sunday and snow piled deeper in the mountains as the state sat under a storm system that already had snowbound motorists, caused flooding and even slowed trains.

The latest in a series of storms was blamed for at least four weekend deaths in Southern California, including a homeless man killed Sunday by a landslide. Along the storms' eastward track, two people were killed Saturday by separate avalanches in Utah, authorities said.

Heavy snow across the Sierra Nevada stranded an Amtrak train, shut down the Reno, Nev., airport for the second time in a week and halted motorists over the mountains. Winter storm warnings were in effect with as much as 5 feet of new snow possible by Tuesday morning on top of Saturday's accumulations of up to 4.5 feet.

Up to 6 inches of rain was expected Sunday in Southern California with at least 2 feet of snow possible in the region's higher mountains. Residents of a mobile home park in Santa Clarita, northwest of Los Angeles, were evacuated after a retaining wall ruptured and 5 feet of water flowed from a creek.

Authorities weren't immedi-



A snowbound Union Pacific freight train gets assistance Saturday in Truckee, Calif., as consecutive storms hit the Sierra Nevada range.

ly sure how many people were evacuated.

"An 8-foot masonry wall that was protecting the structures gave way and water is rushing into all the houses," said Inspector John Mancha.

Dozens of Sunday church services and all weekend high school sports events were can-

cled around Reno, Nev., because the area got 18 inches of snow. The region was still digging out from a Dec. 30 storm that dumped as much as 9 feet of snow in the Sierra and 4 feet in the Reno area.

"A combination of two storms of this magnitude hasn't occurred in the city of Reno since

1916," National Weather Service forecaster Shane Snyder said.

Major highways across the Sierra between Reno and Sacramento, Calif., were closed for part of Saturday and the heavy snowfall also delayed Amtrak trains through the mountains.

"There was just too much snow on the tracks," said Amtrak

spokesman Mark Magliari.

Flash flood warnings were posted throughout Southern California and authorities kept close eye on foothill neighborhoods below the San Bernardino Mountains where slopes burned bare by wildfires were especially prone to mudslides.

Two traffic deaths were blamed on wet pavement on Saturday and one man died when he tried to cross a swollen stream in Ventura county, police reported.

The storms have been caused by cold low pressure off Oregon's coast colliding with a stream of moist air from the southern Pacific known as a "Pineapple Express," said forecaster Ted Mackechnie of the National Weather Service.

"These are pretty rare events and when they hit, they hit hard," Mackechnie said. "It's very dangerous."

On Saturday, up to 4 feet of snow stalled motorists in their cars along a 5-mile stretch of highway between the Son Valley ski resort and the Big Bear dam in the San Bernardino Mountains about 90 miles east of Los Angeles. Rescue crews had to use tracked vehicles to rescue people.

Elsewhere, flooding along the Ohio River had chased hundreds of Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky residents from their homes.

Advocates lashed by new rape treatment guidelines

By DAVID CRARY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scores of advocacy groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood, assailed new Justice Department guidelines for treating rape victims Thursday because the detailed procedures make no mention of emergency contraception as an option that could spare some women an unwanted pregnancy.

The result is "a glaring omission in an otherwise thorough document," the groups said in a letter sent to Diane Stuart, director of the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women.

Gloria Feldt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, called the omission "a blatant example of politics taking precedence over the emotional and physical health needs of women."

Her organization, and other groups, contend that information about emergency contraception was included in an early draft of the guidelines, then removed from the final version because of political concerns.

A Justice Department spokesman, Eric Holland, said Stuart's office had received the protest letter and would "review its contents carefully." The department offered no immediate comment on the specifics of the complaints.



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Ex-presidents make dynamic duo

By Tom Raum

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Bill Clinton are unlikely partners, given their political differences. But their membership in the ex-so-exclusive club of American presidents has forged an increasingly warm bond and melted away some of the old bitterness.

When he needed someone to head up a tsunami-relief effort, it was natural for Bush to reach out to his father, the first President Bush.

Inviting Clinton on board came despite years of political rancor by the Bush family toward the Arkansas Democrat. After all, Clinton had ousted the elder Bush from office in 1992 and campaigned for Democratic nominee John Kerry just last year.

The two former presidents and old rivals now are appearing together in a public service television advertisement to raise funds for the tsunami victims. Earlier, they did several joint TV interviews.

The pairing showed that the



Former presidents George H.W. Bush, left, and Bill Clinton file a public service announcement encouraging the American people to make cash donations to tsunami relief efforts.

two parties can come together for noble, as well as ceremonial, purposes following two other recent harmonious gatherings of ex-presidents: Ronald Reagan's funeral in June and Clinton's library dedication in November.

If Clinton and the elder Bush prove successful on their fund-raising mission, as they seem to be doing, Bush might

want to consider other projects for them.

"It might be a way for Bush finally to get around to paying off on this notion that he's a uniter, not a divider," Princeton political scientist Fred Greenstein said.

"I think that this business of bonding Clinton with Bush's dad might be a bridge" toward finding bipartisan solutions to some

of the nation's thorniest problems, Greenstein said. Social Security, for instance.

But don't hold your breath, say people in both parties.

The GOP's right wing still harbors much hostility toward Clinton. Democrats see Social Security as one of the few bedrock items on which they have a real toehold, especially among older voters. There is broad Democratic opposition to Bush's plan to set up private investment accounts in exchange for cutting guaranteed future benefits.

If not Social Security, then perhaps other issues. Or perhaps Bush will give Clinton a high visibility post. There have been suggestions, even from some Republicans, for Bush to name Clinton president of the World Bank when the job comes open in June.

Bush has been lavish in his recent praise of his predecessor.

"I fell in Saline County (Ark.) was asked by his son why he liked Governor Clinton so much. He said, 'Son, he'll look you in the eye, he'll shake your hand, he'll hold your baby, he'll pet your dog all at the same time,'" Bush joked at the Clinton library dedication.

Departing Cabinet not looking in classifieds for employment

By Sharon Theimer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Departing members of President Bush's Cabinet will not have to scour the classifieds to find plum jobs.

Secretary of State Colin Powell can revive a lucrative book-writing and public-speaking career. Homeland Defense Secretary Tom Ridge and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson will be highly sought in the corporate world because of their background and connections.

From Agriculture's Ann Veneman to Veterans Affairs' Anthony Principi, others probably will have their pick of jobs. Book deals and the lecture circuit are among the options for former Cabinet members. So, too, are seats on corporate boards, work as consultants and television commentators, as well as positions at law, lobbying and investment firms and at universities.

"Seven figures would be a problem," said Tom Donohue, president and chief executive of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's largest business lobby.

Cabinet secretaries' assets include management skills, broad experience and unrivaled

contacts in government and overseas, Donohue said.

Former President Clinton literally wrote the book on creating a high-paying career after decades in government. The two-term Democrat reportedly earned \$10 million to \$12 million for his best-selling autobiography, "My Life," and can command \$100,000 per speaking engagement.

Among the departing members of the Bush Cabinet, Powell comes closest to Clinton in earning potential, said Betsy Berg, vice president and head of the lecture department at the William Morris Agency in New York.

In the 1990s, after Powell retired as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the former Army general reportedly earned at least \$6 million for "My American Journey," his best-selling autobiography. He also took in up to \$100,000 per speech and served on numerous boards of directors, including those of corporations, charities and universities.

Berg said it is hard to say whether Powell will find similar success this time.

"But I think he's a great name and people will be very interested in him," Berg said. "He was really one of the most bankable people, I think, that ever came out of office."

Based on their background with domestic



Powell

Ridge



Thompson

Principi

security, Ridge and Thompson also will be in demand for books and lectures, she said.

Access to the president and valuable information increase the demand for former Cabinet secretaries. Add experience running state governments — Thompson as Wisconsin governor and Ridge as governor of Pennsylvania, for example — and they become attractive to corporations as possible chief executives in the business world, Donohue said.

Commentator dropped

CHICAGO — A conservative columnist has been dropped by a major syndication service because he accepted a payment from the Bush administration to promote the No Child Left Behind law to fellow blacks and to give the education secretary media time.

Armstrong Williams, one of the nation's leading Black conservative voices, has acknowledged that a company he runs was paid \$240,000 by the Education Department, and he called criticism of his relationship with the department "legitimate."

Tribune Media Services said it told Williams on Friday that it was halting distribution of his weekly newspaper column.

The company, a subsidiary of the Tribune Co., said it accepted his explanation that the payment was for advertising on his radio and television programs.

Gingrich bashes Bush

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich is taking steps toward a potential presidential bid in 2008 with a book criticizing President Bush's policies on Iraq and a tour of early campaign states.

The former House speaker who led Republicans to power a decade ago said he soon will visit Iowa and New Hampshire to promote his book, try to influence public policy and keep his political options alive.

"Anything seems possible," including a White House race, Gingrich said.

The quotable and controversial former Georgia congressman, who now runs a consulting firm in Washington, is promoting "Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America." He seemed to welcome the thought that a book tour will increase speculation about his political aspirations.

Donations reach \$18M

WASHINGTON — The Presidential Inaugural Committee raised more than \$4.5 million last week, increasing the total amount of donations to \$18 million, or about half of the \$35 million to \$40 million it plans to raise to finance three days of events including fireworks, the swearing in, a parade and nine balls.

Money raised last week came from 25 corporate donors and 10 individuals who contributed \$25,000 to \$250,000, the maximum allowed by the committee. Three individuals and 11 corporations each contributed \$250,000, according to the committee's Web site, www.inaugurals.com, which was updated Friday.

"We have seen a great deal of enthusiasm from people who are committed to ensuring that the 55th inaugural is a success," said Tracey Schmitt, a spokeswoman for the committee.

From wire services

2005 shaping up as hectic year for Supreme Court

By Gina Holland

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court returns Monday with an ailing leader, pressure to rule quickly on the constitutionality of federal prison sentences and a slew of contentious issues to decide, from medical marijuana to Ten Commandment displays.

The most immediate concern is the health of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in October. He has been working part time at the court for more than two weeks but still is too ill to return to the bench.

At 80, Rehnquist already was considered a top retirement prospect on a court that has had no turnover in a decade, a record.

But justices try to time their departure's for the court's summer recess, to avoid 4-4 ties in cases.

Rehnquist's absence has yet to produce any tie votes. Even though he missed all the arguments in November and December, he has reviewed the cases and could vote if needed.

"I suspect no matter what his health, he'll do whatever he can to

hang in there," said Stephen McAllister, law school dean at the University of Kansas and a former Supreme Court clerk. "There is nothing that frustrates them more than an eight-person court."

Besides Rehnquist, Justices John Paul Stevens, 84, and Sandra Day O'Connor, 74, are considered possibilities to leave this year. McAllister predicted court vacancies "will be the big story of 2005."

Powerful lasers available online

U.S. Navy develops device to protect and warn pilots

BY ELLEN SIMON
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lasers mark dates on boxes of butter. They cut gears and engrave vehicle identification numbers into cars. They are the key components in compact disc and DVD players.

Like so much in the high-tech world, they keep getting cheaper and more powerful.

And their ubiquity could pose a problem for aviation.

There have been at least eight reports in recent weeks of lasers pointed at aircraft cockpits as they approached for landing. A New Jersey man was arrested Tuesday after authorities say he admitted to pointing a laser at a helicopter and a jet. The FBI and Department of Homeland Security sent a memo to law enforcement agencies last month saying they had evidence terrorists have explored using lasers as weapons.

Federal officials have said there is no evidence the recent cases are part of a terrorist plot, and such incidents are nothing new: a Federal Aviation Administration study said "several hundred" similar cases have been reported since the mid 1990s.

Despite their ubiquity, lasers fall under strict government scrutiny.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates lasers and divides

them into four classes. Midlevel lasers are the type used in supermarket scanners. Class four lasers pose an eye and skin hazard.

Companies that manufacture lasers, integrate lasers into another product or modify lasers must file paperwork on their products with the FDA.

But at least one company, which claims to be an "original equipment manufacturer," sells lasers to anyone with a credit card. A laser advertised as "strong enough to burn holes in a black trash bag" sells for \$289.

Lasers like those are "orders of magnitude stronger than what it takes to injure an eye," said William J. Ertle, president of Rockwell Laser Industries Inc., which sells protective eyewear to use with lasers. The fact that such lasers are available online is "scary and concerning," he said.

Jerry Dennis, an FDA consumer safety officer who monitors lasers, said lasers sold by original equipment manufacturers "are strictly for use as components, rather than for use to the general public."

"We are addressing that particular concern as best we can," he said.

But "we don't control the sales. We regulate the products," Dennis said. "When the law is written, that was the extent of the authority given to us."

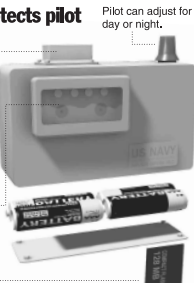
Laser alert protects pilot

The U.S. Navy developed a small device, to be mounted in the cockpit, that can warn a pilot targeted by a potentially harmful laser light.

Receiver for signal from Global Positioning System satellite gives exact position of aircraft.

Sensors identify the type and strength of laser and photographs the source of the laser.

Details of the laser are recorded on compact flash card.



Pilot can adjust for day or night.

SOURCE: Naval Air Warfare Systems Command

Wickedlaser.com did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment, and a receptionist at the phone number listed in the domain name's registration records said she knew nothing about the company.

The site warned that "Lasers are very dangerous and not toys. Never point a laser at a moving vehicle or airplane. Shining a laser at an airplane is a serious felony in the United States."

Lasers have gone from laboratory rarities to cheap giveaways.

The first laser, made in 1960, used an expensive ruby crystal. Now key chains with laser pointers sell for \$1.75.

David Banach, 38, the man charged with using a laser to temporarily blind the pilot and co-pilot of a plane flying near the Teterboro, N.J., airport, bought the laser on the Internet for \$100 to use for his job testing fiber-optic cable, his lawyer said.

Banach said he was using the laser to look at the stars with his 7-year-old daughter.

Some sporting venues and school systems have strict prohibitions on laser pointers. They are banned in Malaysia, at Philadel-

phia Eagles football games and many school districts.

Laser light shows are also regulated. Standards are recommended to the FDA by a committee of experts that includes a research optometrist who works for the FAA, as well as representatives from the U.S. Navy, NASA and the International Laser Display Association.

Companies that put on laser light shows must get FDA approval; companies that do shows outdoors are also reviewed by the FAA.

Some pilots are asking whether there's a way to alert crews when a laser has targeted their plane. The FAA study, released in June, found that even the lowest-intensity laser shows must get FDA approval; companies that do shows outdoors are also reviewed by the FAA.

The U.S. Navy expects to roll out a detection device early this year for military use. It can be mounted to a plane's bulkhead and will alert a flight crew if their plane is being tracked by a laser.

Under development for 2 1/2 years, the laser event recorder uses software algorithms to measure a laser's intensity and compute whether it could hurt a crew's eyes.

Judge: Floss cannot be replaced by mouthwash

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mouthwash is no substitute for dental floss, a federal judge ruled, citing a Listerine ad campaign false and misleading and a public health risk.

Judge Denny Chin said in a written ruling made public Friday that he expected to order Pfizer Inc. as early as Monday to stop claiming that its product, Listerine, is as effective as floss at reducing plaque and gingivitis between teeth.

The ruling came after McNeil-PPC Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, filed a lawsuit saying that false claims in the advertising campaign that began last June posed an unfair threat against its sales of dental floss.

"Dentists and hygienists have been telling their patients for decades to floss daily," Chin wrote. "They have been doing so for good reason. The benefits of flossing are real — they are not a myth." Pfizer's implicit message that Listerine can replace floss is false and misleading.

Pfizer in print ads had featured a Listerine bottle balanced on a scale opposite a floss container. The ad said "Listerine antiseptic is clinically proven to be as effective as floss at reducing plaque and gingivitis between the teeth."

The campaign also featured a television commercial titled the "Big Bang." In it, the commercial announces that Listerine is as effective as floss and that clinical tests prove it, though it does add that there is no replacement for flossing.

10 students strip-searched at school

LA MARQUE, Texas — Ten students between the ages of 11 and 12 were strip-searched as officials at their charter school tried to find a missing \$10 bill.

Seven girls and three boys at the Mainland Preparatory Academy were searched down to their underwear Thursday after one of the girls reported the money missing, said Principal Wilma Green. The money was not found.

"It's not illegal," La Marque Police Chief Richard

Price said.

"We don't see it as a criminal offense." But he said an investigation was under way.

The search angled at least one parent, who filed a complaint with police and pulled her four children out of the school.

"I have never signed a consent to let my kids be strip-searched — never," said Shelli Owens, the mother of a 12-year-old boy who was searched.

From The Associated Press

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FACES

Big-top debut for former guardsman

When asked to describe his new job as the newest ringmaster for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Tyson McFarlan's answer is short and sweet.

"I'm Willy Wonka and I introduce people to this wonderful, magical world," McFarlan said.

McFarlan, 34, comes to the 135th edition of the "Greatest Show on Earth" with both musical theater and military experience. At age 16, he enlisted in the Army National Guard. McFarlan then completed advanced training while attending college and was ultimately promoted to the rank of captain.

But he's happy to trade his camouflage fatigues for jeweled jackets.

"Coming from a military background, I take pride in wearing a uniform," said McFarlan, who has three costume changes throughout the show. "I know that I'm not stepping into a character because this is not a character. It's something that comes over me."

McFarlan made his three-ring debut Wednesday in Tampa, Fla., but he's been rehearsing for his role as ringmaster for over a month.

McFarlan, a former license examiner and father of a three-year-old daughter, will rule the ring during the 21-city tour. He plans to frequently fly his daughter out for visits. And if he continues as ringmaster for another year, McFarlan might bring her along for the ride.

"I love what I'm doing," McFarlan said. "But with anything this great, there's always a sacrifice."

Royals help pack aid for tsunami victims

Princes William and Harry pitched in Friday to help survivors of the South Asia tsunami, packing aid to be sent to the region.

William, 22, and Harry, 20, sons of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, helped pack boxes of emergency supplies for the British Red Cross at a warehouse in Gloucestershire, England. The pair, along with other volunteers, unloaded pallets of toilet paper and shampoo that were packed with other supplies into hygiene packs to be sent to the Maldives area.

Charles, who is a patron of the Red Cross, visited the group's London headquarters last week to support the relief operation.

TV poker craze grows

Do you want Kennedy or Tom Leykis on the front line of the battle of the sexes? That's the choice the GSN network is offering. The former MTV personality and the radio personality will be co-hosts of "Poker Royale: Battle of the Sexes."

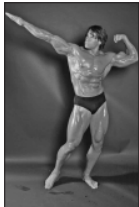
"The latest twist in the trend of card-playing television is to match some of the world's best male and female poker players up against each other in a tournament. Paul Wolfe and Greg Fosselman" Raymer are on the men's team, and Kathy Liebert and Evelyn Ng are among the female players.

Arnold impersonator gets TV role

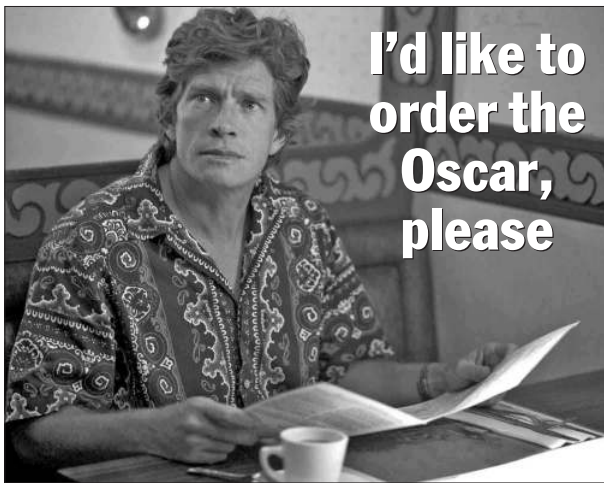
He's Austrian, he bears a striking resemblance to his hero and he's got bulging biceps he likes to call "my little Alps." Who better to play Arnold Schwarzenegger in a U.S. made-for-TV movie than actor Roland Kickinger?

Inspired by the Schwarzenegger film "Conan the Barbarian," Kickinger began bodybuilding at a gym in Vienna in the 1980s. Now he's starring as a young Schwarzenegger in "Arnold Run," a film being made by the cable channel A&E.

Kickinger, a former Mr. Austria who says he befriended Schwarzenegger and has idolized the California governor for years, told Austrian television Thursday it's a dream role.



Kickinger



FOX SEARCHLIGHT/AP

Actor Thomas Haden Church appears in a scene from the film "Sideways." Best-known for playing Lowell, the mechanic in the 1990s TV show "Wings," Church portrays a journeyman actor on a last fling before getting married.

Award buzz surrounds Thomas Haden Church for his role in acclaimed movie 'Sideways'

BY JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

In "Sideways," Jack, an out-of-work actor, explains to his friend: "There are things I have to do that you don't understand. You understand wine and literature and movies ... but you don't understand my plight."

The "plight" of Jack, played by Thomas Haden Church, is a pre-nuptial romp during a wine-tasting trip before his fateful wedding. But the story of Church's journey is not entirely different from Jack's.

Like the character he plays, Church is most famous for his work on older TV shows. He's probably most recognized as the guy who played Lowell, the deadpan mechanic in the NBC sitcom "Wings" (1990-97), before leaving to co-star opposite Debra Messing in the Fox series "Ned and Stacey" (1995-97).

But with "Wings" long behind him, Church is finally taking flight.

In Variety, Todd McCarthy wrote of Church: "Who ever expected the co-star of TV's 'Wings' and 'Ned and Stacey' to suddenly emerge as a riotous presence in a top indie-flavored picture?"

Nominated for a Golden Globe, Church has already been honored by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association for best supporting actor and appears a lock for an Academy Award nomination.

Praise for "Sideways" and others in its ensemble cast—Paul Giamatti, Virginia Madsen and Sandra Oh (director Alexander Payne's wife) — is just as loud. The film ranked in more than 50 critics' top 10 lists (including both Associated Press movie reviewers). USA Today recently computed that based on the early season awards, "Sideways" is the odds-on favorite to win the best-picture Oscar.

While terms like "surprise" and "unlikely" get tossed around about both "Sideways" and its co-star, even Church, himself, was unexpecting.

He says he choose to do other things after the TV series "because I had made enough money to be secure. I think in some way I was moving away from acting. By circumstance, you just kind of wake goodbye."

A Texas native, Church started out as a radio disc jockey

and voice-over announcer, a fitting occupation given his deep, animated voice. If pressed, he can still mock-announce the taglines of a few old radio stations.

After catching the acting bug in an independent movie, Church moved to Los Angeles and in 1990 was cast on "Wings" Along with "Ned and Stacey," the actor co-starred in the two "George of the Jungle" movies, which he did to make a few good flicks for the kids and "for a chunk of change."

While mixing in less memorable appearances in films, Church wrote and directed his first movie, "Rolling Kansas," a comedy about a road trip in search of a marijuana forest. Made independently, it played at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival but was not picked up for theatrical distribution.

For the last few years, the 43-year-old has spent less time in Hollywood, living with his wife and children on their Texas cattle ranch.

Enter Payne. The director was impressed by Church in auditions for his last two films: "Election" and "About Schmidt." He was close for the part in "Schmidt," but lost out to Dermot Mulroney in the role of Kathy Bates' brother. For the character of Jack in "Sideways," Payne thought about casting a big-name actor but didn't think the audience would buy a movie star playing a C-listier.

"He says in the movie 'I used to be in a couple of TV series. I write right now, I do mostly commercials,'" says Payne. "That's kind of what Tom has been doing recently. Yes, he directed a movie, 'Rolling Kansas' and also 'George of the Jungle,' but his big things have been those TV series. I think about it every time I see that scene."

So will "Sideways" propel Church back into acting full time?

"I've been offered several movies since Toronto [Film Festival] but I didn't want to do any of them. If this is the last thing, that would be all right. I have no problem with 'Sideways' as the movie I come known for."

Meantime, he makes a cameo in another movie in theaters now, "Spanglish."

The parallels between Church and Jack only go so far, though. And Church certainly doesn't buy Jack's "plight" or that his womanizing will end when a ring is on his finger — "No leopard changes his spots in his early 40s."

Blues with Okinawa twist

Musician fuses island instruments with gritty guitar riffs

By DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa bluesman David Ralston's fourth CD, "The Lucidity of Insanity," offers something decidedly different.

Instead of continuing his adventures with an "in your face" blues style learned at the side of rock 'n' roll legend Delaney Bramlett — a guitarist who has mentored the likes of Eric Clapton, Duane Allman and George Harrison — Ralston is creating something new that erupts from several tracks on his new release.

Call it "Okinawa Blues." The first cut opens with some traditional taiko drumming and new band member Kanaka Horiuchi belting out a traditional Ryukyuan Islands chant, followed by Ralston's open-tuned guitar and Okinawa shanshins, the twangy three-stringed banjos of the islands.

Then he breaks in with some gritty blues guitar licks and sings in the vocal growl Delaney taught him.

"When I close my eyes sometimes I hear a woman singing so nice," Ralston sings. "Brings me back to a place I ain't been for such a long time."

Except that he has: The place is Okinawa and Ralston's been here since 1992 and has no plans to leave except for an occasional stateside tour with his band, which is made up of Okinawa musicians.

Ralston, who drinks nothing stronger than Coca-Cola, gradu-



DAVID ALLEN/Stars and Stripes

Okinawa bluesman David Ralston and his latest CD, "The Lucidity of Insanity." His fourth release has a decidedly "Okinawa blues" feel.

ed from Indiana State University, where he met his wife, Kome. In 1992 he traveled to Okinawa to meet her family and wound up staying. She is an interpreter for Marine Headquarters on Okinawa and he became a drug and alcohol counselor for Marine Corps Community Services. They have two children, Nari, 12, and Sean, 9.

"I began getting involved with traditional Okinawan music when I was recording 'Blue Sky' at Ajima Studios several years ago," Ralston said during a recent break from his day job as a drug and alcohol counselor.

Ajima Studios is run by Rinken Teryu, head of leading Okinawan music group, "Rinken Band," the premier Okinawan group that blended the island's traditional music with modern Japanese pop to form "Uchina," or Okinawan pop.

Ralston has taken the same traditional songs and licks from the shanshin and turned them into the blues.

"It's been a steady progression," he said. "It really started to gel when we found Kanaka last summer. She's a singer from Hokkaido who came to Okinawa three

years ago to study with Mitsuko Oshiro, a famous local singer.

"A friend of mine took me on down to a club in Naha to hear her sing and it just blew my mind," Ralston said. "She has a real brassy, bluesy voice and I just felt like I had to work with her."

But it wasn't easy. Horiuchi said he had to get her teacher's permission and Ralston found himself in Oshiro's club auditioning for her.

"I tell you, after all these years, playing with Delaney, on stage before thousands of people at major Japan rock festivals, I've never been as nervous as sitting down with my guitar and playing for Oshiro's respect," Ralston said.

"But I played my heart out and it worked out all right."

Ralston said that during his last U.S. tour in October, at traditional blues clubs in Chicago and in Indiana at Indianapolis, Terre Haute and his hometown of Kokomo, the crowds were a little unimpressed at first when a lanky Hoosier came on stage with a band of Japanese musicians.

"We opened with a few basic blues tunes, then Kanaka'd come out in her kimono and start chanting and the taiko drums would start up and the crowd would just melt," he said. "It was incredible."

Also on the CD is George Murasaki on the Hammond organ. Murasaki is an Okinawan who became famous in Japan in the late '60s for a band that earned its chops playing loud rock music in gritty Okinawa City bars frequented by U.S. servicemen.

"There's a lot of different influences on this new CD," Ralston said. "There's traditional R&B, old-style slide guitar, the Okinawa instruments and chanting. It's cool to take these two traditional forms of music and create something new."

You can catch the David Ralston Band at their CD release party this Saturday at the 7th Heaven Club on Route 330 in Okinawa City. The show starts at 8 p.m. The album, to be released later this month by an independent label in the U.S., is available now at www.davidralston.com.

David Allen at email@sptrips.com



Pausing to reflect at a portrait of Elvis on the grounds of Graceland in Memphis, Tenn., Jerry Levi of Manchester, England, remembers Elvis when he would have been his 70th birthday on Saturday.

Elvis still going strong

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Would the pompadour be gray? Would arthritis have stilled the swiveling hips? Would the lip now curl above false teeth? If he were still alive, Elvis Presley would have turned 70 on Saturday. But old age and the unfortunate problem of being deceased haven't slowed down the King.

"There's no age to him," said Jerry Engelby, one of 800 or so fans gathered on Graceland's lawn for a cake cutting and "Happy Birthday" sing-along.

For the faithful, with "Good Rockin' Tonight" blasting from a pair of speakers, Elvis was as hot (or as cool) as ever.

That he was born in 1935 and died in 1977 did little to tarnish the fans' memories of a rock 'n' roll rebel or bespangled superstar.

"In the movies we're watching, he's still just Elvis. The songs

we're hearing, he's still just Elvis," said Engelby, 62, of Jefferson City, Mo.

That career, which began in 1954, is still strong, too, with Presley's run as a star lasting longer after death than in life.

Elvis Presley Enterprises, the business arm of the estate, brought in \$45 million last year, making Elvis one of the top earning dead entertainers in the world.

Since his death, the estate, including the rights to his name and image, have been solely owned by his only heir, daughter Lisa Marie Presley.

But her husband, Robert F.X. Sillerman, the founder of music and sports promoter SFX Entertainment, is in the process of buying 88 percent of the estate's assets. He plans to take the business public and look for new markets for Elvis ventures.

Lisa Marie Presley will keep title to Graceland.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Jan. 10)	102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 8)	1,031.00
U.S. dollar (Jan. 10)	108.15
Dollar buys (Jan. 10)	107.77
British pound (Jan. 10)	1.53

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.377
British pound	1.5688
Hong Kong (dollar)	0.7915
Hong Kong (Hong Kong)	0.7915
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,088.15
Israel (Sheqel)	0.3589
Japan (Yen)	104.88
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2619
Norway (Krone)	0.2188
Norway (Krone)	0.2619
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	0.375
Singapore (Dollar)	0.698
South Korea (Won)	1,049.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8589
Thailand (Baht)	0.25
U.S. dollar (U.S. dollar)	1.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Commercial currency rates are based on (i.e., purchasing) British pounds in Germany, based on the local currency banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference only. All figures are foreign exchange rates for one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars per pound, and the euro, which is dollars to euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc	Gold
Gold	\$418.90
Silver	\$6.49

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.25
Federal funds market rate	3.25
3-month bill	2.32
1-year bill	2.32

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Caution when using credit

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Here are some tips to prevent thieves and scam artists from accessing your credit-card information online:

■ Buy through secure Web sites. When you buy something online or try to sign in to view your credit or bank accounts, your browser frame should have a small lock symbol near the bottom right-hand corner.

■ This means the site scrambles your purchase information before sending it over the Internet. The Federal Trade Commission reports, however, that such security symbols can be faked, so be sure to practice other safe buying habits as well. No check? Make the order via phone instead.

■ Use complex passwords for online accounts. Your best bet is a combination of letters and numbers, adds SecurityScan.com, a Web site that collects statistics on Internet security. Avoid using as a password any personal information, such as your name, birth date, address, telephone number and so on. Chances are, if a thief has come

across your credit card number, he or she may have other basic information about you as well.

■ Put your online purchases on a single credit card. Internet security is fallible, so this way you can limit the damage if your credit card information is stolen.

■ Stick to stores you know. The FTC recommends that you thoroughly check out any little-known company before making an online purchase.

■ Call the company to ask for a paper catalog or brochure. ■ Never e-mail financial information. Reputable retailers will never ask that you e-mail your credit-card number or other financial information. If you receive an e-mail asking for verification of such information, call the company instead.

■ Pay for online auctions with a reliable third source. Don't give the seller your financial information. You might sign up for an online payment service such as PayPal (www.paypal.com) or CheckFree (www.checkfree.com). If you're buying a valuable or otherwise high-ticket item, choose a reputable escrow service.

WWE show coming to Tokyo, Seoul

World Wrestling Entertainment's Road to WrestleMania XXI will include stopovers at the Saitama SuperArena just north of Tokyo and the Chansil Indoor Gymnasium the first weekend of February, WWE officials announced.

WWE superstars Hunter Hearst Helmsley (Triple H), Randy Orton, Trish Stratus, Ric Flair and others will perform on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5 at Saitama, about 15 miles east of Yokota Air Base, and on Feb. 5 at Chansil, site of the 1988 Summer Olympic Games, about 20 miles east of Yongson Garrison.

U.S. Military bases in the Tokyo and Seoul areas have not announced any immediate plans for visits by WWE superstars, nor plans to sell tickets at base recreation centers.

Ticket sales for the Feb. 4 Chansil show, to go on sale Jan. 15, can be purchased by phoning 1544-1555 or visiting <http://www.ticketpark.com>, a Korean-language Web site.

Tickets sales for the shows at Saitama began Saturday. They're being sold by Kyodo Tokyo, (03) 5720-9191 or 3498-9999; Ticket Pia, (0570) 02-9991 or 9999; Lawson, (0570) 06-3024 or 00-0433; CN Playguide, (0570) 06-9990 or (03) 5802 9999 or by visiting <http://eee-epus.co.jp>, a Japanese-language Web site.

From staff reports

OPINION

Chisholm raised her hand and raised the bar

A lot of us who remember her owe a debt to the late Shirley Chisholm. She taught us how to stick to principles, even when our friends think we're a pain in the neck.

As warm praise deservedly ac-

Clarence Page



companies the condolences for Mrs. Chisholm, who died Jan. 1 in Florida at age 80, I remember a time when the first black woman to be elected to Congress and the first to wage a

major presidential campaign was not greeted as warmly as today's tributes sound.

Coming from some lips, the glowing praise for her "courage, her individualism," her "tenacity" and her "relentless activism" sounds like a nice way of saying that she could be, well, a pain in the neck.

And she prided herself on making herself a pain in the neck, even to her allies, if they tried to make her sit on the sidelines and wait her turn like a nice little lady, as many tried to do. Period. And she was crazy, but only at first. She had a habit of getting what she wanted

or, at least, making the path easier for those who would come later. As Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., who knew her well, recalled, "For her to succeed, she had to be a little strange — and certainly extraordinary."

Indeed, Harlem's black political club bosses, such as Adam Clayton Powell, Basil Patterson, Percy Sutton and Rangel, didn't know what to make of this former day-care center director and educational consultant who got herself elected to the New York State Assembly from Brooklyn in 1964, without much help from Brooklyn's tough political machine.

She took her slogan, "Unbought and Unbossed," the title of her 1970 autobiography, so seriously that she fellow Democrats were not always sure of what to do with her. When she fooled detractors by getting elected to Congress four years later, the white Democratic bosses in Congress didn't seem to know what to do with her, either.

Incredibly, the woman from Brooklyn was assigned to the House Agriculture Committee. When she protested, House Speaker John McCormack told her to be a good soldier," she recalled later. She waged a parliamentary battle with the leadership and was switched to the Veterans Affairs Committee. Eventually she was reassigned to the Education and Labor Committee that she wanted.

Seizing the times in which she

lived, Chisholm built a national constituency of her own as an outspoken, iconic advocate for women, minorities, the poor and the anti-war movement.

She was elected to Congress in a time of urban riots, antiwar protests and President Lyndon B. Johnson's "war on poverty." It was the same year that Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated. It was a year after Gary's Richard Hatcher in Indiana and Cleveland's Carl Stokes were elected the first black mayors of major cities. It was two years after the National Organization for Women was founded.

Booyed by her national fame, Chisholm in 1972 launched the first large-scale presidential campaign by a black candidate in either major party. Once again displaying her eccentric independence, she did it without consulting her fellow members of the still-young Congressional Black Caucus.

By the time I would cover Chisholm as a young reporter in Chicago, she had simultaneously galvanized a national movement for herself but failed to win the endorsement of the 3,000 delegates to that year's historic National Black Political Convention in Gary. Many black leaders opposed her campaign as a solo fight," recalls Rep. Major Owens, who succeeded Chisholm in 1982 without her endorsement.

Indeed, while major black and feminist leaders showed solidarity



Shirley Chisholm takes her oath of office to become a Democratic member of the House of Representatives from New York on Jan. 3, 1969, in Washington. Administering the oath in this re-enactment of the swearing-in ceremony for Chisholm, the first black woman to serve in the House, is Speaker John McConrack, D-Mass.

AP

with her in public, I also heard muted complaints that Chisholm was not conferring, coordinating or building an organizational base from which others could operate after her largely symbolic campaign was done.

"The next time a woman runs," she wrote in her 1973 autobiography, "The Good Fight," "or a black, a Jew or anyone from a group in the country is 'not ready' to elect to its highest office, I believe he or she will be taken se-

riously from the start. The door is not open yet, but it is ajar."

Indeed, when other women like Geraldine Ferraro or Elizabeth Dole or blacks like Jesse Jackson or Colin Powell are discussed as presidential hopefuls, the name of Shirley Chisholm inevitably appears, too. She didn't make it anywhere near the White House, but she helped to prepare the way for someone who will.

Clarence Page is a Chicago Tribune columnist.

Hollywood likes a war story shot from one angle

BY MAX BOOT

During World War II, Frank Capra made a series of films called "Why We Fight" to rally Americans behind the war effort. Imagine a filmmaker doing that today. Actually, it's impossible to imagine.

Hollywood either prefers to stay away from the war on terrorism altogether (the film version of Tom Clancy's "The Sum of All Fears" changed the villains from Islamist extremists to neo-Nazis) or to use it, even in its pre-9/11 form, as a morality play to warn against lost civil liberties (see "The Siege," starring Denzel Washington).

The film community — whose sensibilities are routinely outraged by the treatment of snail darters or swamps (aka wetlands) — can't even work up much excitement about Dutch filmmaker getting slaughtered, allegedly by a Muslim fanatic. Where were the rallies and memorials to protest Theo van Gogh's murder? The lack of outrage should be no surprise because the most successful movie made about the war on terrorism might as well have been titled "Why We Shouldn't Fight." I refer, of course, to "Fahrenheit 9/11," which smartly insinuated that the Bush administration posed a bigger threat to the world than Osama bin Laden or Saddam Hussein ever did.

Some conservatives have produced their own documentaries in reply to Michael Moore's grotesque mediocrity, but the best answer comes from two honest, nonpartisan films that depict different aspects of the current struggle. If you want to know why we fight, check out the movie "Osama" and the documentary "Voices of Iraq."

"Osama," the first film made in liberated Afghanistan, opens with a scene of Taliban enemies breaking up a demonstration by burka-clad women upset about their inability

to work. The action then shifts to a hospital that is being closed, throwing a female doctor out of work.

Without a male wage earner in the family — both her husband and brother have been killed — starvation looms. So she cuts her 12-year-old daughter's hair and sends her out to work disguised as a boy called Osama.

Director and writer Siddiq Barmak's understated style convincingly conveys the horror of daily life under the Taliban. Marina Gohbahi, a street urchin whose father was arrested by the Taliban in real life, invests the title role with an authenticity that no mere actress could hope to match.

Ultimately, Osama's masquerade unravels, and she faces a gruesome punishment from an Islamic court. The ending, which I won't give away, is enough to make anyone shudder — and give thanks that U.S. troops have toppled the Taliban. Yet I don't recall a

single Hollywood feminist expressing gratitude to the U.S. military or its commander in chief for the liberation of Afghan women. No doubt Streisand, Sarandon & Co. were too busy inveigling John Ashcroft.

"Voices of Iraq" is one of the most gripping documentaries I have ever seen. Most of the footage was created by distributing 150 digital camcorders to let ordinary Iraqis record their own lives and thoughts from April to September 2004.

Early in the film, an American newspaper headline — "Fear of Militias Forces Ordinary Iraqis to Stay Home" — is ironically juxtaposed over a bustling street scene. As the movie moves along, we see proud university graduates in mortarboards, boys clowning around, and everyone riveted by the exploits of the Iraqi soccer team at the Olympics. In other words, we see that the terrorists are failing to disrupt Iraq's slow, painful progression toward normality.

While "Fahrenheit 9/11" presents antebellum Iraq as an idyllic place where children courted with kites, "Voices of Iraq" shows the grim reality: Saddam's henchmen throwing bound prisoners off buildings, raping girls, massacring Kurds...

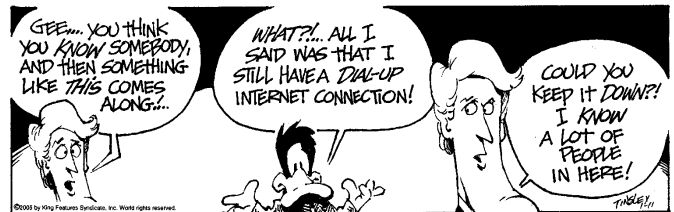
A few Iraqis say that, given current violence, they'd prefer to go back to the days of Saddamite stability, but most are enthralled by their newfound freedom. "Now," one woman says, "there is opportunity for hope."

Producers Eric Mannes, Archie Drury and Martin Kunert deserve an Oscar for this eye-opening documentary. But they're not likely to get it, because that would require Hollywood to acknowledge there's more to the occupation of Iraq than the evil designs of Halliburton and the neoconservatives.

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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TINSLEY

Fake little blue pills

CA LOS ANGELES — A man has pleaded guilty to smuggling tens of thousands of counterfeit Viagra tablets from China and manufacturing hundreds of thousands more.

Frank Fu Jen Huang, 58, entered his plea the day his trial was to begin. He could face as much as 51 years in prison on charges of conspiracy, trafficking in counterfeit goods and causing a counterfeit drug to be made or sold, authorities said.

The counterfeit pills did not have the right mix of ingredients but looked like the blue pills manufactured by Pfizer Inc., authorities said.

Sentencing was set for March 28.

Breathalyzer replacement

NJ NEWARK — New alcohol-detecting machines to measure motorists' blood-alcohol levels are in the process of replacing the Breathalyzer machines that have been used by New Jersey police for decades. The Sayreville police department became the first in the state to use the Alcotest 7110, which is considered an improvement over the Breathalyzer because it can be employed with less setup time. Breathalyzers, invented in the 1950s, can take as long as 20 minutes to set up before a driver can be tested.

Anti-smoking efforts fail

IL SPRINGFIELD — The American Lung Association of Illinois gave the state's anti-smoking efforts a failing grade for the third year in a row and said local governments should be given more authority to regulate smoking. The association awarded Illinois an "F" in categories such as smoking prevention and children's access to cigarettes. Illinois earned a passing grade in one program — a "C" for its 98-cents-a-pack cigarette tax.

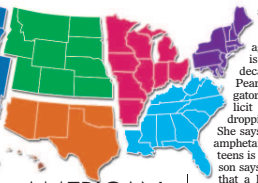
Tainted water

NE GRAND ISLAND — Final water tests have confirmed fears of more groundwater contamination in the Grand Island area.

Preliminary testing in northeast Grand Island had indicated seven private wells contained industrial solvents at a level not safe for drinking. Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality spokesman Brian McManus says the good news is none of the wells were being used for drinking water. After testing 76 private wells in the area, McManus says 10 others had detectable levels of solvents but were below the drinking water standards. The source of the contamination is suspected to be the Nebraska Solvents Co., which went out of business in 1988.

Race stirs debate

NM SHIPROCK — Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr.'s hiring of a white man as the Navajo Nation's new spokesman for \$81,640 a year is prompting criticism. George Harden's salary eclipses Shiprock's own base wage of \$55,000. Duane Yazzie, the president of the Navajo's Shiprock chap-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ter, argues the salary is unwarranted and says there were capable Navajo candidates for the job. Harden is married to a Navajo woman, has Navajo children and lives on tribal land.

Prison sex suit

NY WHITE PLAINS — Carolyn Warmus, who was convicted of murdering her lover's wife, has filed a lawsuit claiming she was forced to have sex with correction officers so she could spend time out of her prison cell.

The civil rights suit claims Warmus, 40, also had to endure sexual advances from prison staff while she was monitored under the prison's "tracker" system for high-profile inmates. The Journal News reported.

Warmus said she consented to sex on several occasions in order to gain access to the prison's recreation room, where she could make calls to relatives and watch television.

"This sexual abuse is improper, humiliating, degrading, and embarrassing," she wrote in the suit.

Though she is the daughter of an insurance magnate, Warmus said in the suit that she could not afford a lawyer and asked U.S. District Judge Stephen Robinson to appoint one for her.

Teen drug use down

HI HONOLULU — A state Department of Health survey



Frozen fruit

A crabapple is covered in ice after an ice storm in Kansas City, Mo.

shows that use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco by Hawaii teenagers is declining, and is at its lowest level in a decade. Renee Storm Pearson, principal investigator for the survey, says illicit drug use has been dropping in all categories. She says use of crystal methamphetamine, or "ice," by teens is at a record low. Pearson says the study also shows that a large number of students are still experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

Elderly man subdued

MN ST. PAUL — Police said they are investigating an incident in which an officer pepper-sprayed an 85-year-old man during a traffic stop.

Leon Nins said officer Michael Lee also beat him after he took too long to stop his car. Police deny that and say Nins attacked Lee. Leaders of St. Paul's NAACP chapter and St. Paul African American Leadership Council alleged that race was a factor. Nins is black.

Nins said at a news conference that he was bringing sandwiches and cupcakes to his wife during his daily visit to her nursing home Dec. 27 when Lee tried to pull him over for having expired license tabs.

OD, not taser, killed man

FL HOLLYWOOD — A man who died shortly after police zapped him with a Taser was a victim of a cocaine overdose, not the stun gun, officials said.

Doctors said they found five times the toxic level of cocaine in Kevin Downing's system, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

Police say Downing was incoherent Dec. 15 in the middle of a busy street. Paramedics who happened by stopped to help Downing, who screamed something at them. They called police, sparking a confrontation. It took at least three officers to control and handcuff Downing, who died later at a hospital.

Teacher's great gift

PA PITTSBURGH — One of Mark Milank's students scored a touchdown when he got him a Christmas gift.

Russell Malloy, 10, honored his favorite teacher — a die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan — by getting Hall of Fame running back Franco Harris to autograph a ball for the reading tutor.

Russell wrote Harris a letter after spending \$16 of his own money for the football, and asked Harris to sign it to my teacher for Christmas," the note read.

Gina Malloy said her son repeated the second grade and had struggled in school until Milank tutored him — often regaling the boy with stories of the Steelers' glory days, when Harris helped the team win four Super Bowls from 1975 to 1980.



Around the world

GlobalFlyer, flown by Steve Fossett, comes in for a landing at the Salina Municipal Airport in Kansas. Adventurer Fossett — the first person to circumnavigate the globe solo in a balloon — was set to begin his attempt at the first solo, nonstop flight around the world without refueling from an airport in Salina.



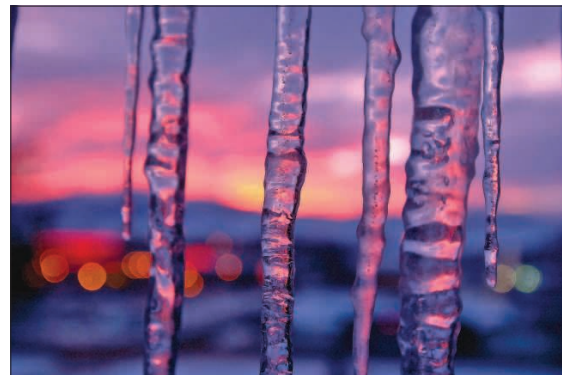
Couch sledding

Brian Sweeney, left, and Josh Wilson, right, push a makeshift sofa toboggan up a sledding hill at Lockwood Park in Racine, Wis.



The race is on

Chris Hotham, 14, steers his snowmobile as Danny DePuis, 12, hangs on as they zip through the snow in Southington, Conn. In the background, Joey DePuis, 14, and his little brother, Ryan, also race through the field.



Icy reflections Icicles reflect the sunrise at a residence overlooking downtown Elko, Nev.



Flood traps elderly couple An elderly man and woman stand in flood waters awaiting rescue from emergency responders from the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office and Antrim Volunteer Fire Department near Cambridge, Ohio.



Under caution Barry Rowland surrounds himself in caution tape as he repairs some of the carpet in the Chamber of the Texas Senate in Austin, Texas.

Parents take detention

TX PEARLAND — Susan and Steven Manis say it was their fault their daughter, Jessica Dunkley, was being unfairly punished — spending an hour with her in detention.

The couple says their 13-year-old daughter, Jessica Dunkley, was being unfairly punished for being late six times in October and November when the family's van wouldn't start.

So when administrators insisted the Pearland Junior High School East seventh-grader would have to spend an hour in detention, they decided to go with her.

"We're more at fault than she is," said Susan Manis, who had appealed the decision.

Family gets settlement

NY ALBANY — The family of a 24-year-old engineer accidentally killed by police officers will receive \$1.3 million settlement from the city, the largest in its history. Mayor Jerry Jennings and the family of David Scarione announced the agreement.

Scarione was struck and killed by a stray bullet fired as officers chased a drunken driver on a busy Albany street on New Year's Eve 2003.

Students escape fire

TN NASHVILLE — Fire damaged a men's dormitory at Fisk University, spreading rapidly through the second floor after starting in a student's room. Assistant Fire Chief Kim Lawson said there were no injuries, largely because only about 20 students had returned from the holiday break. New Livingston Hall houses 150 students. There was no immediate indication how the fire began.

Hooker turns man in

FL HOLLYWOOD — A hooker turned in a customer after seeing child pornography, including a video of an apparent toddler rape, on the man's home computer, police said.

Detective Carlos Negron said police were contacted by the woman, saying that while working at the man's apartment as a prostitute she saw numerous pictures of children. The pictures appeared to be between ages 3 and 16 performing sex.

The woman told police that it was a disturbing video that showed the rape of a younger child, perhaps no older than 2, that caused her to make the call after she left the apartment, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

Taxis earning more cash

NY NEW YORK — Taxi ridership has dipped slightly since fares rose last May, but drivers' revenues have risen, the Taxi and Limousine Commission said.

The average cab logged about two fewer miles a day between May and December last year than during the same period in 2003, the TLC said. The seven-month span also saw drivers' average daily revenue rise to \$314 a day, up from the 2003 average of \$263.

Fares rose an average of 26 percent as a result of the May 3 hike, which was meant to compensate for increased cost-of-living for drivers and the cost of installing new technologies.

Temple time line

HI HONOLULU — Ancient agricultural temples on two Hawaiian islands were likely built within a span of 60 years, possibly in one generation, not over several hundred years as was previously believed, according to a new study.

The report, published in the *Journal of Science*, says the temples likely were built during a construction boom on Maui and Molokai from 1580 to 1640 that suggests a rapid consolidation of two independent chiefdoms under one leader.

The new dates were determined by a technique that measures the amount of the element Thorium created by the decaying uranium found in the coral in the temple walls and platforms. The dates coincided with the formation of a single society under the reign of Pi'ilani.

Previously, the temples were dated between 1400 to 1800 from radiocarbon sampling of wood charcoal, the study said.

Accidental shooting

GA ATLANTA — Aimee Buff, 27, was celebrating the New Year with her fiancé at the Peach Drop in downtown Atlanta when she was hit by a bullet that went through her left ear and lodged in her neck.

She is the second woman shot during the celebrations. No arrests have been made. Police say arrests are difficult to make during such large celebrations.

Dad in penalty box

MA SWAMPSCOTT — A Swampscott man who allegedly put a choke hold on an 8-year-old boy following the boy's on-ice tangle with the man's son has been banned indefinitely from attending local youth hockey games.

Jordan Waldman, 51, also could face criminal charges for the Dec. 26 incident after a Salem-Swampscott Youth Hockey Association game against Masconomet.

Waldman allegedly cursed at and shook the boy, his 6-year-old son's teammate. The two boys shoved and elbowed each other as they came off the ice, said Mike Cheever, president of the Salem-Swampscott association.

Other parents intervened.

Pitfalls of cough syrup

CA SAN FRANCISCO — If you drink alcohol, don't drink ever if it's only alcohol-based cough syrup you've sipped.

That was the message from a state appeals court, which this week upheld the one-year license suspension of a 16-year-old girl who was pulled over on a freeway and claimed she had imbibed only a capful of Robitussin.

The driver, Karli Ann Bobus, was stopped in November 2002 by a Highway Patrol officer, who said her car was weaving on the freeway. The officer said her eyes were bloodshot and her speech was slurred. Her blood-alcohol level measured 0.022 percent.

Her license was immediately suspended under a state "zero-tolerance" law that makes it illegal for anyone under 21 to drive with a blood-alcohol content of 0.01 percent or higher, compared with 0.08 percent for an adult.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Horoscope

Capricorn is a responsible and focused energy that helps distill life's chaos down to its useful essence. New information is all well and good, but how does it apply? What's the practical action we should follow to get to the next step? Tolerance is low for anything that doesn't contribute directly to the bottom line.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 11). This will be a busy, energetic year as you, bustling with social connections and bustling with creative insights. A project you've been nursing with care and love goes public in February. March is cozy and romantic, while summertime is a whirlwind of publicity for your business. Also, a family-related event is featured in June.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your inner wisdom is no dummy—neither is it a betrayer. It wants to guide you toward your true mission and purpose. Stop fighting it. By focusing on your spiritual needs, you better the world in your own unique way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have an innate ability to create order out of chaos. Attract the person you desire by showing him or her what a steady, calming force you can be. Water signs Cancer and Pisces worship the ground you walk on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being a perfectionist can be stressful. Go easy on yourself — you don't need to be right all the time. By redirecting your keen insight and using it to support others, you impart knowledge that is uncannily true and perceptive.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You feel energized and more than a little bit lucky. Your intuition and creativity get a booster shot, too. Make the most of these stellar aspects by tackling your passion project with renewed gusto.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The universe gives you a happy wink and a nod. You get a well-timed break, enabling you to breathe a little easier and feel a little lighter. If

you hold your head up high, you can see over any obstacles to a perfect day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be successful if you play by the rules. Good old-fashioned hard work is a sure bet than winning the lottery, though flukes of outrageous fortune are in the stars for some of you. Remain upbeat and confident.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your senses are laser sharp, and you're able to see things, people and situations for exactly what they are. Focus that X-ray vision on a project that requires serious concentration, and you will succeed magnificently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A positive attitude to examine your values arises. Dump any old beliefs that just aren't working for you anymore. Make room for new truths. The successful future you envision is much nearer than you think.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't just "get by" with a little help from your friends, you excel and thrive. Because of your fun-loving nature, powerful pals get a thrill out of giving you a leg up in life. Accept this with gratitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Good news concerning love, money or the arts is found in your mailbox or voice mail. Perhaps a friend sends you a complimentary ticket, or a certain clue is asking about you. When the message comes, act fast.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's hard to stay focused on mundane concerns like work and bills when your head's in the clouds. Your imagination is captivated by dreamy romance or flights of fancy involving winning the lottery. Give in to pleasure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your subconscious is sending you subliminal love notes to help you stay on the path to happiness. Note any interesting dreams, gut reactions or unusual experiences you might have. These are important clues.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis

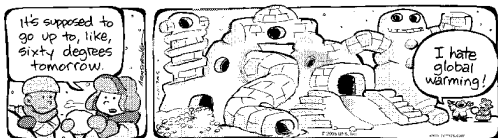


tration, and you will succeed magnificently.

Calvin and Hobbes



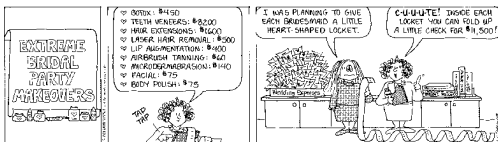
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



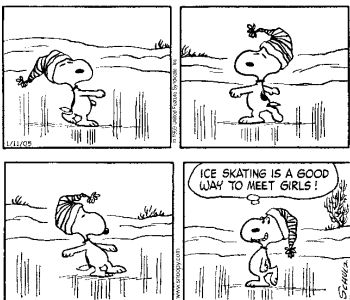
Red Rover

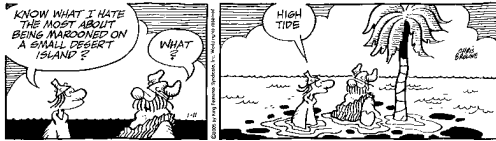
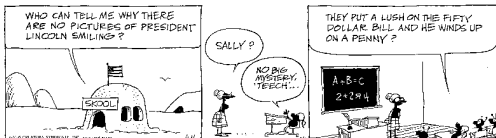
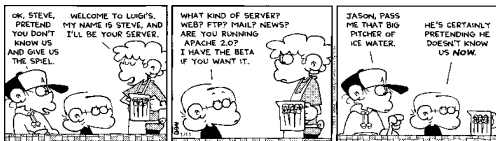


Better or Worse



Peanuts





Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18					19				20				
			21				22						
23	24	25				26					27	28	29
30						31				32			
33						34				35			
						36				37			
38	39	40											
45						46				47		48	49
48						49				50			
51						52				53			

Across

- 1 Cacophony from
the kennel
- 5 Turf
- 8 Tops
- 12 Hydrox rival
- 13 Seesaw quorum
- 14 Humdinger
- 15 "White Album"
song
- 17 Speedy steed
- 18 Maryland emblem
- 19 Dog tags et al.
- 20 Listerine alternative
- 21 Opinion
- 22 Tie up the phone
- 23 Tremendous
- 26 Greek consonants
- 30 Pinnacle
- 31 Mr. DeLuise
- 32 Mississippi River
flooder

Down

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Vacillate | 26 Part of UCLA |
| 2 Vicinity | 27 Fawn's mom |
| 3 Fringe benefit | 28 Idolater's emotion |
| 4 Turn on the waterworks | 29 Easy mark |
| 5 Prep for finals | 31 Desiccate |
| 6 Hasn't paid yet | 34 Massachusetts symbol |
| 7 Spanish 13-Across | 35 Give as an example |
| 8 "White Album" song | 37 Blood bank VIP |
| 9 Mark replacement | 38 Snatch |
| 10 Hit a puck | 39 Actress Olin |
| 11 Hollow cylinder | 40 Vittles |
| 12 Story teller | 41 Old dog |
| 20 Muppet eagle | 42 DeMille movie, usually |
| 21 "White Album" song | 43 Maltese money |
| 22 Thanksgiving vegetable | 44 Acute |
| 23 Mule of song | 46 Chapeau |
| 24 ".....Lazy River" | 47 "Of course" |

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	S	P			W	E	B			G	A	L	A
R	O	A			A	R	R			E	W	E	S
M	A	G	I		Y	O	U			O	L	D	S
S	P	E	C	K		S	C	A	R				
					H	I	D			E	U	G	E
B	A	H	A	M	A	S			K	E	V	I	N
A	L	A	R			M	A	O		C	A	N	I
L	A	N	D	S			G	R	O	A	N	E	D
D	I	S	P	E	L		B	A	R				
					R	E	E	F		F	L	I	E
C	I	T	Y		N	A	B			I	T	C	H
O	R	E	O		N	C	O			N	E	R	O
W	E	A	R		Y	E	W					M	U

1-11

CRYPTOQUIP

X O G Q W G N Q O X G N Q W H Q G
N D L M Q Q B D Y L N X E Q
L O E Q W X H O O H G - G D C C O T L.

N Q M X L X S X W B Q Y S X T.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I NOTICED A SHEEPDOG
 PUPPY EATING CANTALOUPE, SO I CALLED HIM
 MY MELON COLLIE BABY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

Tough to leave victimization behind

Dear Abby: I was molested at the age of 9. It went on for about five years. Eventually the man who molested me also raped me. I tried numerous times to tell my mother, but she would never believe me. I even went to the school counselor.

My mother had a serious alcohol problem and didn't seem to realize what was going on. "Rony," the man who raped me, used to beat my mother until she was unconscious — and then call me in and tell me it was my fault for telling on him, and that I should let him do what he wanted or he would hurt my mother again. Because I was only 9, I felt like I had to protect her.

Rony has since passed away, but I am still scarred by what happened to me. My mother has never forgiven him for not believing me, and I have suppressed much of what happened. I am scared that one day all of

those memories are going to come flooding back and hurt me all over again.

What do you think I should do? Should I leave the memories buried, or find a way to get them out and move on? I have a very understanding man in my life, and we are engaged. Please help me.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: **Wants to Move on in Houston**
Dear Abby: On: The best way to start a new life is to leave the baggage from the old one behind. You were manipulated and victimized by a monster, and counseling can help you to close that horrendous chapter in your life forever.

I received the following letter the morning after yours arrived. Please read it:

Dear Abby: I was raped at 13. The only person I told was my mother, who told me it was my fault because I was too outspo-

ken and attractive. After that, I developed a severe social phobia and became shy and nearly housebound.

I could barely talk to people my own age, let alone make friends or dates.

In college, I finally sought counseling and began to realize that what happened to me wasn't my fault. I had to decide whether or not I was going to sacrifice more precious years to my fears or move beyond them.

Everyone who has been sexually violated needs to talk to a professional. At the very least, a child should talk to an adult.

— Not Afraid Anymore
Dear Not Afraid: Congratulations for finding the courage to reach out and get the help you needed. I hope other victims of sexual assault will see your letter and learn from it that they were not at fault for the crime that happened to them.

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email at http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby or write to Abby on the Internet at Universal Press Syndicate.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LALED

BYBOH

CASMIO

DOLIBY

www.jumble.com

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: BISON SWISH INNATE BLUING

Answer: When the kitchen help fell behind, the chef was — "STEWING"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Angrillon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Classmate's behavior disturbing

Dear Annie: I'm a 12-year-old girl attending a local middle school.

I enjoy eating lunch with my friends and socializing during that time. My friends and I usually sit at the same table every day. On one particular day, someone took our table before we got there.

So my friend, "Alice," suggested we sit with "Jenny," who seemed happy to have our company. Jenny is nice, but very different. During lunch, she talked to herself and made odd sound effects, did these short skits in which she performed all of the parts, and told unfunny jokes while she pretended to eat our food. We all laughed at her jokes in order to be polite.

It was OK to sit with Jenny that one day, but for the past week or so, she's asked to sit with us every single day. We have never refused, for fear of hurting her feelings. Jenny behaves in the same odd way all the time, and I don't know how much more of it I

Annie's Mailbox



can stand. Three of us asked Alice if she knew what we could do, and Alice became angry, so we didn't bring up the subject again. But I can tell that Alice is annoyed with Jenny, too.

— At My Limit
Dear Annie: It's possible that Jenny is suffering from Tourette's syndrome or some neurological impairment that interferes with her control over her actions. Instead of ditching her, why not ask Jenny, gently, if she is aware that her behavior is a little odd and maybe she could talk to her doctor about it. It may open up a frank and helpful discussion.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "No Grimm Stepmom," who asked how long she is expected to pay for her stepson's education. As a college counselor and financial adviser, I often get the question of how long to keep paying for a child's education. I have come up with a series of questions for parents to analyze:

1. Does the student have a focused goal, such as an advanced degree and teaching credentials, as opposed to changing majors every year? 2. Is the student carrying a reasonable full-time load (12 hours or more)? 3. Is the student making reasonable progress, taking required courses and making at least a "B" average? 4. Can you afford to continue to make this investment in his future? If the answers are all "yes," then continue to pay. If not, tell your child to make the answers "yes," otherwise the answer to any checkbook request is NO.

— Dr. D. in Tallahassee, Fla.
Dear Dr. D.: Thank you for clarifying the difference between a perpetual student and one who is actively pursuing specific goals.

Your letter will help parents decide if they are truly assisting their child in achieving success.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"We learned about them at school. They're our four fathers."

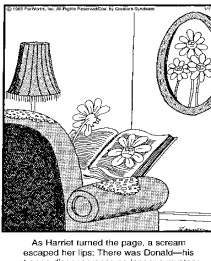


Dennis the Menace

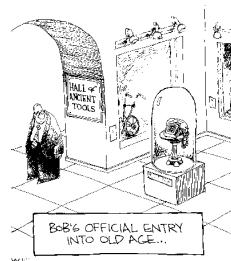


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The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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Moya gives winnings to tsunami aid

The Associated Press

MADRAS, India — Top-seeded Carlos Moya of Spain retained the ATP Tour's Chennai Open title by defeating Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5) on Sunday in a repeat of last year's final.

**Sports
briefs**

"I was extremely lucky to win today ... Never in my previous 17 title victories did I feature in a final where I came back from 2-5 in the decider set," said Moya, who later donated the winner's purse of \$52,000 toward the relief operation for victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"I'm donating the entire prize money from this tournament for tsunami victims, hoping it makes some difference to their lives," Moya said.

U.S. awarded Olympic equestrian gold

LONDON — Germany's Olympic team show jumping gold medal will go to the United States after the International Equestrian Federation announced it had disqualified rider Ludger Beerbaum and horse Goldfever for a doping offense.

Sweden will be awarded the silver, and Germany will drop to the bronze because the sport's governing body erased Goldfever's results from the Athens event.

The rider — who has denied cheating — said the banned steroid betamethasone was contained in an ointment used to treat a skin irritation on the horse.

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[illegible]

Singh holds on as showdown looms in Maui

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Maui — Vijay Singh heard cheers at every corner Saturday in the Mercedes Championships, and all he could muster were mostly pars. He finally answered with one shot that salvaged the day.

Singh hit a 5-wood from 248 yards within 10 feet on the par-5 15th for an eagle, allowing him to shoot a 4-under 69 and hold off Jonathan Kaye and Ernie Els

heading into the final round of the season-opening tournament.

"It came out absolutely perfect," Singh said. "I couldn't hit it any better."

He was at 19-under 200, in good shape to become the first wire-to-wire winner of the winners-only Mercedes Championships since it moved to Kapalua in 1999.

Kaye birdied six of his final eight holes for a 66 and was at 201, while Els finally got out of a

funk from a bad bogey at No. 9 to shoot a 68, leaving him two shots behind.

Still, it all comes down to Singh. Coming off a nine-win season, the 41-year-old Fijian can make an early statement about his No. 1 ranking with a victory Sunday in what is expected to be wet, windy weather. Singh has won the last 11 times when he has had at least a share of the 54-hole lead, dating to the 2001 MCI Classic.

"He's on a roll like probably only two or three guys in history

have ever been on," said Stewart Cink, who shot a 67 and was three strokes behind. "He's going to be tough to catch. I don't even know what he is (under par) right now, but I'm sure we can wait five minutes and it will be one better."

Not quite.

Singh had 15 pars — his other two holes were a simple up-and-down birdie on No. 9 and a wedge to 2 feet on No. 6 — and realized he wasted a good chance to expand his lead.

"It's a disappointing 4 under,

but I'll take it," he said. "I'm still in the lead by 370 yards to a 2-iron into the waist-high weeds on No. 15. It's like I see the flag and a driver off the 17th hole that went 370 yards, through the fairway, the rough and into the hazard."

"The hole is 370 yards to the hazard," Woods said. "I didn't think I could hit it that far."

He wound up with a 69 and was five shots behind.

Defending champion Stuart Appleby, who opened with a 74, got into the hunt with rounds of 64-66 and was four shots behind along with Mike Weir (71).

It was shaping up to a dynamic conclusion along the rugged coast of Maui, and an intriguing start to the year.

Six players were within five shots of Singh on a course where, as the third round proved, anyone can get it going and one hole can change things in a hurry.

"Quite a few guys can come into it," Els said. "I'm happy to be in the final group."

Kaye played with Singh in the opening round, with Woods on Friday and spent the third round with Els, a good chance for him to see how his game stacks up with the Big Three.

"It's stacking up all right," Kaye said.

He finished with a flurry, starting with an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 11 and making all of his closing birdies from inside that range. Kaye is the only player among the top seven ranked out of the top 15, but he looks as though he's capable of winning at Kapalua.

"It would be great to this opener," he said. "You could take the rest of the year off."

Els wasn't daunted seeing Singh atop the leaderboard. He started out with a couple of 20-foot birdie putts, then stuffed a wedge inside 4 feet on the third for his third straight birdie to tie Singh.

And when the Big Easy two-putted for birdie on the par-5 fifth — with Singh making nothing but pars behind him — Els had the lead to himself and was cruising right along.

But all that work came undone on one hole.

He pulled his approach into an awkward lie in the bunker on the par-5 ninth and took two shots to get out, making bogey on one of the easiest holes at Kapalua. That was like giving two shots to the field, and Singh came through with a chip to 4 feet for birdie to restore his two-stroke margin.

"Believe me, any time you make a 6 on a par 5, it gets you," Els said. "I don't care who you are."

Woods, meanwhile, had a meltdown after more putting problems. He missed from 10 feet on No. 3 and cursed, from 8 feet on No. 4 and pursed his lips, then compounded matters with a three-putt par from 35 feet on the fifth. When his 10-foot birdie on the next hole turned away, Woods came undone.

Holding his putter by its head, he took a full swing into the side of his bag — forward, then backward. He ripped off the cover of his driver and threw that to the ground. And after a big tee shot, he smacked his driver into the cart path.

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Texas forward P.J. Tucker, left, runs with the ball during the first half Sunday in Austin, Texas.

No. 15 Te underman

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas started the Big 12 schedule like it did the regular season, hitting from

High school

underman

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas started the Big 12 schedule like it did the regular season, hitting from

Skiing

Men's World Cup Slalom

The 15th-ranked Longhorns hit 11 shots from long range in 79-60 victory over Baylor on Sunday.

Daniel Gibson and Kenton Paulino did most of the damage, combining for nine, and it was the seventh time this season Texas had hit at least 10 threes in a game.

"Coach was telling us to be ready to shoot," said Paulino, who was 5-of-6 from beyond the arc. "Gibson can shoot the ball from three. They can't guard all of us."

Gibson finished with 18 points and Paulino had 17, while forward LaMarcus Aldridge added 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Longhorns (12-2).

"When Kenton starts knocking down shots like he did tonight, it really opens things up for everybody, inside and outside," Gibson said.

Tim Buss scored 20 points to lead Baylor (7-4, 0-1).

Texas is 14-0 against Baylor in the last four meetings and has won the last four in the series but at least 18 points.

Baylor is still rebuilding from

Women's World Cup Slalom

transfers left by former coach Dave Bliss. The Bears have just six scholarship players and their starting point guard, Aaron Bruce, fouled out midway through the second half.

Bruce came in as the Big 12's leading three-point shooter at 52 percent, but he couldn't match the effort of Gibson and Pauline

Sunday's women's scores

**Overall World Cup Standings
(After 17 of 35 events)**

1. Tanja Poutiainen, Finland, 706 points.
2. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 613.

Overall World Cup Standings

Yokota 43, Matthew C. Perry 27
At Iwakuni Marine Air Station, Japan
M.C. Perry 11 5 8 3-2
Yokota 8 10 13 12-4
Leading scorers-Yokota, Calveon Thomas
27; M.C. Perry, Ephrem Hardin 8.

Texas forward P.J. Tucker, left, runs into Baylor's Patrick Fields in the first half Sunday in Austin, Texas. Texas defeated Baylor 79-60.

No. 15 Texas beats undermanned Baylor

He had just one three before fouling out.

"I have one recommendation," Baylor coach Scott Drew said, "If you don't see the players' slant have your point guard foul out with 9 or 10 minutes left."

While Texas could have been expected to use its deeper bench to outlast the Bears, the Longhorns were also playing short-handed and the Bears managed to keep it close until midway through the second half.

With 10 minutes left, forward Jason Klotz, who averages 11.3 points, served a one-game suspension for throwing a punch in last year's game. The result was that guard Sydmyll Harris missed his third straight game with a groin injury.

While Texas still had eight minutes left in building a 45-37 halftime lead, Baylor did everything it could to keep up, hitting four.

At the end of the first half, 12 points, including Baylor's last seven of the half.

Texas' perimeter shooting over Baylor's zone defense cooled off after the first half. The Bears' Longhorns started getting more points inside and in transition.

Klotz's absence opened up more playing time for Aldridge, a freshman forward who is a double-double. He had five straight points when he converted a three-point play on a dunk after a steal and followed it with a layup and a 63-49 lead with 11:35 to play.

"I think I did my job trying to post deep, get in rebound position and make sure Aldridge said," "One thing I need to work on is my right hand follow up dunk. I made my left one."

Mets, Beltran working on deal

Astros can't get Al-Star to sign before deadline

By RONALD BLUM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Carlos Beltran and the New York Mets agreed Sunday to try to structure a \$119 million, seven-year contract, a lawyer involved in the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The sides agreed that the deal will include an \$11 million signing bonus, the source said on the condition of anonymity.

New York and Beltran's agent, Scott Boras, still had to work out how to structure his salaries for each season and any deferred payments, the source and another person involved in the talks said, also on condition of anonymity.

Mets officials and Boras planned to work throughout Sunday in an attempt to reach a preliminary agreement on the specifics of the contract. After the sides sign off on that, Beltran must pass a physical for the deal to be finalized.

Houston, who helped Houston come within a victory of its first World Series last year, will become the 10th player in baseball history to agree to a deal worth \$100 million or more and the first since Jason Giambi got a \$120 million, seven-year contract from the New York Yankees in December 2001.

Mets scouts, who haven't made the playoffs since 2000, were on the verge of pulling off their second coup of the offseason. They lured three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez from the Boston Red Sox last month with a \$53 million, four-year deal.

Houston offered Beltran a \$100 million, seven-year contract, but he turned it down before Saturday night's deadline for him to re-sign with the Astros. Because he became a free agent and rejected salary arbitration under baseball's rules Houston had to re-sign Beltran by midnight Saturday or lose rights until May 1.

The serious parts of this only happened in the last six months, Astros general manager Tim Lincecum said. "Really, I think we ran out of time. Mostly, it's time and money. Certainly, it's the fact that we didn't deal with some of these things earlier — but we didn't control the pace of the negotiations."

Houston's offer included a \$14 million option for 2012 with a \$2 million buyout, a team executive confirmed Sunday on condition of anonymity. If that option were exercised, the deal would have been worth \$112 million over eight seasons.

Astros officials said an agreement was difficult to get in place last Saturday night because of the logistics involved: Team staff was at the ballpark, owner Drayton McLane was at his home in Tem-

pe, Boras was at his home in Newport Beach, Calif., and Beltran was in Puerto Rico.

It's been a tough offseason for the Astros. All-Star second baseman Jeff Kent signed with the Dodgers, pitcher Wade Miller was let go and signed with Boston, and All-Star outfielder Lance Berkman suffered a knee playing flag football, an injury that will cause him to miss the start of the season.

Also, Houston is trying to persuade Roger Clemens not to retire.

Clemens, 42, has said he would make a decision this month.

Certainly we will welcome Roger back," Boras said. "We're not going to shift into a rebuilding mode because of this. We certainly feel we have the nucleus of a competitive club."

Beltran, who has won his second Cy Young Award in his first season with his hometown team, already has agreed to salary arbitration. If he exchanges figures with the Astros on Jan. 18, he could ask for a record amount, topping the \$18.5 million request Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter submitted last month.

He'll have less incentive to return following the defections.

Overall, the Astros are unlikely to be better.

By making Beltran the centerpiece of their offseason plans, Houston missed out on the chance to sign other quality players such as Moises Alou, Steve Finley or Jermaine Dye.

The candidates to replace Beltran in center will most likely be Jason Lane, minor league prospect Willy Taveras or Craig Biggio, who had the position before Beltran joined the team. Purpura also said he hasn't ruled out a trade to upgrade the spot.

"We're going to improve this club," Purpura said. "We're going to be competitive and we're going to challenge."

While talking with Beltran, the Mets agreed to a one-year contract with South Korean left-hander Dee Sung Koo, who pitched in the 2000 Olympics and spent the last four years with the Orix Blue Wave in Japan's Pacific League.

"I'm excited about the chance to pitch in the major leagues," Koo said in a statement. "It's been my dream to face the highest level of competition possible. I'm thankful to get this opportunity."

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, Texas catcher Rod Barajas is owed a \$1.85 million, one-year deal.

Pitcher Pedro Astacio (Boston) and catcher Brent Mayne (Los Angeles) also let the deadline pass.

Mayne indicated previously he probably would retire if the Dodgers didn't sign him.

Rams escape Seattle, add Seahawks' playoff pain

By TIM KORTE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Matt Hasselbeck waited all season to redeem himself for what happened in last season's playoffs at Green Bay.

One year later, the outcome was painfully similar. Marc Bulger threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns, the last a 17-yarder to Cam Cleeland with 2:11 to play Saturday, leading the Rams to a 27-20 win over Seattle and making St. Louis the first team without a winning record to advance in the playoffs.

"We know we're a good team," Bulger said. "We have talent, but we've made a lot of mistakes this year. Seattle played us good but fortunately we've been making plays the last three weeks when we've had to and that wasn't the case last year."

Hasselbeck led a final charge but came up short again. Last year, his throw for Alex Bannister was picked off by Green Bay's Al Harris and returned 52 yards for an overtime TD.

This time, Seattle faced fourth-and-4 at the Rams' 5 with 27 seconds remaining. Hasselbeck stepped into the pocket, briefly considered running and then sidestepped a pass that zipped through Bobby Engram's hands in the end zone.

"The ball was coming in hot. It was a little tight in there. I think I surprised him a little bit," Hasselbeck said.

"I've got to find a way to make that play," Engram said.

Hasselbeck dropped to his knees and pounded a fist on the turf. He stood and slapped both hands on his helmet. Then he let out a scream of frustration, appearing ready to break into tears as he headed to the sideline.

"I wish I had it back," he said. "That's one play that could have done it for us. I'm sure there are a handful of others earlier in the game that could have done it for us. I'm not going to dwell on that too much."

The Seahawks, who won the NFC West at 9-7 despite losing twice to St. Louis, haven't won a playoff game since Dec. 22, 1984, the NFL's longest drought. And this one stings a little more because the NFC West rival became the first 8-8 team in NFL history to win in the playoffs.

"One of these years, we're going to win a playoff game and take that next step," said coach Mike Holmgren, who is 0-3 in the playoffs in six seasons with Seattle, which has lost six playoff games going back to that last win. "It will happen if we keep the team together."

The Rams, who will travel to Philadelphia or Atlanta for the divisional round, best Seattle in all three meetings this season, twice in Seattle. Their only other road victory this year was at San Francisco, which finished 2-4, the NFL's worst record.

They won their final two games to reach the playoffs, with Bulger throwing for a season-high 450 yards and three TDs in last weekend's 32-29 overtime defeat of the New York Jets.

Jeff Wilkins tied it at 20 on a 27-yard field goal with 8:07 to play. The defense forced a punt, then



Seattle Seahawks QB Matt Hasselbeck is helped up by teammate Jerry Wunsch after Hasselbeck's final throw of the game fell incomplete in the end zone against the St. Louis Rams on Saturday in Seattle. The Rams won the NFC wild-card game 27-20.

Bulger got busy. He led a seven-play, 76-yard drive, throwing twice on the decisive drive to receivers who hadn't caught a pass all day.

First came a 31-yard gain on third-and-2 on a swing pass to Shaun McDonald — his first catch — then Bulger found Kevin Curtis for 13 yards. Cleeland's TD was his first catch of the day, too.

"I was waiting," Cleeland said. "I had a couple plays where Marc got sacked and didn't have a chance to get it to me. I was just waiting for my number to get called, and I made the play. It was a simple seam route."

Bulger completed 18 of 32 attempts with one interception, but it was his leadership and calm demeanor that meant just as much to the Rams.

"If you want someone in the huddle when it counts, somebody to take that last shot at the buzzer, you want it to be Mark," coach Mike Martz said. "That's his personality. That's one of the things that makes him different."

Torrey's caught six passes for 108 yards and one score, and Curtis had four receptions for 107 yards receiving.

Hasselbeck finished 27-for-43 for 341 yards passing with two TDs and one interception. Darrell Jackson had a great day, catching 12 passes for 128 yards receiving and one TD.

Manning, McNabb named Pro Bowl starters

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Peyton Manning will start at quarterback for the AFC, and Donovan McNabb will be the NFC's starting signal caller in next month's Pro Bowl.

The starters for the game, to be played in Honolulu on Feb. 13, were announced Saturday.

Manning will be joined in the AFC lineup by his Indianapolis Colts teammate Edgerrin James at running back; Tony Richardson of Kansas City at fullback; Marvin Harrison of the Colts and Chad Johnson of Cincinnati at wide receiver; Antonio Gates of San Diego at tight end; Willie Roaf of Kansas City and Jonathan Ogden of Baltimore at tackle;

Alan Faneca of Pittsburgh and Will Shields of the Chiefs at guard; and Kevin Mawae of the New York Jets at center.

The starters on defense for the AFC are John Abraham of the Jets and Dwight Freeney of the Colts at end; Richard Seymour of New England and Marcus Stroud of Jacksonville at tackle; Takeo Spikes of Buffalo and Terrell Suggs and Ray Lewis of Baltimore at linebacker; Bailey of Denver and the Ravens' Chris McAlister at cornerback; and Baltimore's Ed Reed and Denver's John Lynch at safety.

McNabb will be joined on the NFC offense by running back Shaun Alexander of Seattle; fullback William Henderson of

Green Bay; tight end Alge Crumpler of Atlanta; wide receivers Mushtin Muhammad of Carolina and Terrell Owens of the Eagles; tackles Walter Jones of Seattle and Orlando Pace of St. Louis; guards Larry Allen of Dallas and Marco Rivera of Green Bay; and center Olin Odeku of Seattle.

The NFC defense has Arizona's Bertrand Berry and Carolina's Julius Peppers at end; Laron Givens of Dallas and Kevin Williams of Minnesota at tackle; linebackers Keith Brooking of Atlanta, Derrick Brooks of Tampa Bay and Dan Morgan of Carolina; cornerbacks Lito Sheppard of the Eagles and Ronde Barber of Tampa Bay; and safeties Michael Lewis and Brian Dawkins of Philadelphia.

SPORTS



Mets, All-Star CF Beltran
working on seven-year,
\$119 million deal, Page 30

Colts bust Broncos again

Manning overwhelms wild-card with 457 yards



AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw for 457 yards and four touchdowns in the Colts' 49-24 win over the Denver Broncos on Sunday.

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Even with his favorite option, Marvin Harrison, shut down early, Peyton Manning was unstoppable Sunday.

Almost everywhere else Manning looked, he saw something he liked.

Manning simply turned to Reggie Wayne and Dallas Clark in building an insurmountable first-half lead. The NFL Offensive Player of the Year had 457 yards passing, second most in playoffs history, in Indianapolis' 49-24 victory over Denver.

"We have guys who have been there before and they do well in pressure situations," Manning said. "Everyone just settles down and we execute our offense and we're not overwhelmed by the moment."

Instead, Manning was overwhelming once more. So were Wayne and Clark.

Against the overmatched Broncos (10-7), Wayne finished with 221 yards, the third most in playoff history, on 10 catches, with two touchdowns. Clark, who suffered a concussion in last week's loss at Denver, had 112 yards and a score.

"That's big, 221," said Wayne, who admitted the receivers were inspired by Denver's defenders questioning their toughness all week. "I wanted to let them know I'd be there all day, not back down or fall to the ground."

"We jumped on them so fast they didn't have any time to say anything."

The Colts (13-4) go to defend-



AP

Indianapolis Colts receiver Reggie Wayne, left, breaks the tackle of Denver Broncos defender Kelly Herndon on his way to a 35-yard touchdown in the second quarter of the AFC wild-card game in Indianapolis on Sunday. Wayne finished with 221 yards, the third most in NFL playoff history.

ing champion New England next Sunday for a rematch of last year's AFC title game, and they bring with them an even more diversified attack.

"We want to keep advancing and we have a tough road ahead of us," Manning said.

The rout was reminiscent of the Colts' 41-10 romp over Denver in last year's wild-card game, when Manning was 22-for-26 for 377 yards and five touchdowns and the Colts led 31-3 at halftime. The Broncos were even worse in

the first half on Sunday as Manning had a record 360 yards and three TDs at the half.

"I'm a little shocked by the way we lost," All-Pro cornerback Champ Bailey said. "I thought it would be a little closer."

"When you play against the best quarterback in the league, he is going to find some weaknesses and exploit them."

For good measure, Manning sneaked in from the 1 with 6 seconds left in the half, making it 35-3 and drawing handshakes

from nearly every teammate for his first TD rushing in more than two years.

"That's a tendency-breaker right there," he said with a laugh. "I'd say we haven't run it in five years."

But it was his arm, of course, that was most decisive. Manning displayed exactly how he broke Dan Marino's 20-year-old NFL mark by throwing for 49 touchdowns this season. By hitting 27 of 33 passes, his QB rating for the game, 145.7, dwarfed his record

121.1 rating for 2004.

Only Bernie Kosar in 1986 had more yards in a playoff game, and he needed double overtime to get 489.

"He was in a zone," Wayne said. "He does a great job of putting us in the right situation."

With Bailey soloing on Harrison, the Colts simply went the other way. On their 76-yard drive to their first touchdown, Manning picked on Kelly Herndon and rookie Roc Alexander on the other side, hitting Wayne for 41 of

SEE COLTS ON PAGE 31

Jets end Chargers' turnaround with OT field goal Page 31



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